## STARS STRIPES.

Chevy Chase rants against Bush at awards event



MLB calls D.C. plan unacceptable, halts team promotions



Destiny's Child reunites, as promised

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Volume 2. No. 251 © SS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

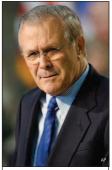
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004

# Americans in Kuwait told of possible attack

U.S. Embassy warns 13,000 civilians to 'maintain a low profile' Page 5

Escaping into video games Page 7

Spc. Criss Sanders, left, frounces Spc. Robert McKinney and Pfc. David Usry in a video game of Halo in a trailer at Camp Liberty, on the outskirts of Baghdad. Like the teenagers and college students across America who sit on couches late on weekend nights and into the next morning, servicemembers spend free hours on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital killing one another in PlayStation2 and Xhox games such as Halo and Moralf Kombat.



Rumsfeld to now personally sign letters of condolence to troops' families

Page 5

### Remember to thank your Command for today's copy of Stars and Stripes.



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### ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Racist vandalism hoax: A former psy-chology professor at Claremont McKenna College in California was sentenced Wednesday to a year in state prison for spraying her car with racist and anti-Semitic slurs and claiming that unknown vandals had done it. Kerri Dunn, 40, of Redlands had faced up to three years' imprisonment. "Professor Dunn ... will be appealing this

matter," he said. She was arrested after two witnesses told

police they saw Dunn vandalize her vehicle and after investigators found inconsisten cies in her statements.

A jury convicted her Aug. 18 of two felony counts of attempted insurance fraud and one count of filing a false police report.

Colo. wildfire sentence: A Denver appeals court on Thursday threw out a 12-year state prison sentence given to former forest ry worker Terry Lynn Barton for starting the largest wildfire in Colorado history, say-

ing the judge gave her too long a term The Colorado Court of Appeals also said state District Judge Edward Colt, who pre-sided over Barton's case, had at least "the appearance of prejudice" because smoke from the wildfire forced him to leave his

own home for a night The court ordered a new sentencing hearing before a new judge.

Barton pleaded guilty to state arson charges for setting 2002 fire that eventually blackened 138,000 acres, destroyed 300 buildings and caused property damage in excess of

R.I. nightclub fire: More than half of the 177 clubs in Rhode Island must install sprinklers under the new fire safety code passed in the aftermath of the deadly Station night-

A new statewide survey compiled by the state fire marshal's office says 95 clubs don't meet the new sprinkler requirement. and 55 of those clubs also lack a newly required alarm system that automatically notifies the local fire department when the alarm sounds.

The fire marshal's study, released

Wednesday by the governor's office, found that 69 clubs already meet both the sprinkler and alarm requirements.

Robert Blake case: The judge in Robert Blake's Los Angeles murder case Wednes-

reversed herself and decided to allow parts of recorded jailhouse conversations to be used at the trial, including one in which Blake referred to the family of his slain wife as "monsters

Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp also permitted use of a segment of a February 2003 jail-

house interview the former "Baretta" television star gave journalist Rarbara Walters

Last week, Schempp had barred the prosecution from using the material but agreed to listen to the recordings and reconsider.

Doctor drug-trafficking case: A pain-management doctor who frequently prescribed high doses of opiates to patients across the country was convicted Wednesday in Alexandria, Va., of drug trafficking in the fatal overdose of one patient.

A federal jury also convicted William E. Hurwitz, 59, of conspiracy and drug distribution charges while acquitting him of some



Romanian presidential race: President-elect Traian Basescu, right, shakes hands with outgoing President Ion Iliescu, as the head of the Constitutional Court looks on Thursday in Bucharest, during the ceremony of validation for the new president. Basescu, a former sea captain who rose to prominence as mayor of Bucharest, won a presidential runoff election on Sunday, defeating Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. He will be sworn in next week.

other counts. Jurors remained undecided on still more charges and was to resume deliberations Thursday.

Three of 50 counts on which Hurwitz was found guilty — distributing drugs resulting in one fatal and two nonfatal overdoses carry sentences of 20 years to life in prison, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Lytle.

Hurwitz frequently prescribed 100 tablets or more of OxyContin tablets for his patients as they developed tolerance to lesser doses. Court testimony indicated at least one patient received a prescription for 1,600 pills a day.

#### World

Stolen paintings: One of two paintings by Edvard Munch stolen from an Oslo, Norway, museum earlier this year was seriously damaged, a newspaper reported Thurs-

Citing what it called multiple independent sources familiar with the art world, as well as criminal sources, newspaper Verdens Gang reported that the "Maddona," had been ruined.

In August, three masked robbers, including at least one with a pistol, took "The Scream" and "Madonna" from Oslo's Munch Museum and fled in a stolen car.

The robbery shook the art world and left it to ponder how it protects priceless paintings and other works of art.

Police Inspector Iver Stensrud told the NTB news agency that investigators were aware of the rumors.

Bali bombing trial: A jailed Afghan-trained militant told a court Thursday in Jakarta, Indonesia, that cleric Abu Bakar Bashir became the leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network in 2000, but that he never heard Bashir talk about terrorism.

"I got a telephone call in 2000 that Abu Bakar Bashir was the new amir (leader) of Jemaah Islamiyah," said Imron Baihaki, who claims that he was in southern Philip-pines at that time. He said he got the call from a Jemaah Islamiyah operative.

It was doubtful that the statement would be strong enough to support prosecutors charge that Bashir - as leader of the al-Oaida affiliate - inspired his followers to

launch the Oct 12 2002 Bali hombings that killed 202 people and last year's attack on the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, that killed 12

If convicted. Bashir could be sentenced to death

Afghan child soldiers: Nearly half of Afghanistan's estimated 8,000 child soldiers have been demobilized and are going through educational programs and vocational training aimed at preparing them to re-join society, the U.N. Children's Fund said Thursday.

The year-old program has targeted 15 northern, northeastern and central provinces. UNICEF said it now hopes to expand into the south, southwest and southeast the most dangerous parts of a country that is still fighting Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents three years after the collapse of the Taliban's hardline regime.

So far, 3,998 boys, mostly ages 14-17, have been demobilized.

Bobby Fischer residency: Iceland has approved a residency permit for Bobby Fis cher, embassy officials said Thursday, but the former chess champion faces hurdles in

traveling there be-cause he remains in Japanese custody and lacks a valid passport. Fischer is wanted in the United States on

charges of violating international sanctions Yugoslavia, against and has been detained since July 13 in Tokyo where he has been fighting a deportation order to the United

Fischer

States It was not immediately clear if he would be able to travel to Iceland.

Fischer soared to fame when he defeated Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union in a series of games in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972

Fischer is accused of violating the sanctions when he played a rematch in Yugoslavia in 1992 against longtime rival Spassky.

He won and took home \$3.5 million in prize money.

Stories and photos from wire services

## Saddam has session with a lawyer U.S. deaths

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Former dictator Saddam Hussein met with a lawyer Thursday for the first time since his capture a year ago, officials said. Insurgents, meanwhile, killed a government official in

Saddam's meeting in his cell with a member of his legal team came as the Iraqi government is gearing up to begin the trials of some of Saddam's top deputies next week, ahead of the country's elections in January.

Saddam and the lawver an Iraqi, met for four hours at the undisclosed location where the ousted leader is being detained, said Ziad al-Khasawneh, head of the legal team hired by Saddam's wife.

"He was in good health and his morale was high and very strong," al-Khasawneh said speaking in Jordan. "He looked much better that his earlier public appearance when he arraigned a few months ago."

Al-Khasawneh would not identify the lawyer.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced on Tuesday that war crimes trials against Iraq's former Baath Party leaders will begin next week. Saddam won't be among those to appear in court, officials said.

Meanwhile, militants continued their campaign to derail the



U.S. Marines in the back of a Humvee on Thursday join a patrol searching a partially-occupied residential neighborhood in Ramadi, Iraq. Iraqi militants in Ramadi say they shot and killed an Italian citizen.

vote by mounting a series of attacks in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Oassim Mehawi, deputy head of the Communications Ministry, as he was heading to work, police said. Eight of Mehawi's bodyguards were injured and hosnitalized

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb exploded near a passing SUV, badly damaging the vehicle, police said. After the blast, gunmen opened up on the survivors with automatic fire, killing a foreigner and wounding two others.

Al-Khadra police commissioner Ali Hussein Al-Hamadani said. There was no immediate infor-

mation on their nationality. In Ramadi, Iraqi militants told journalists they shot dead an Ital-

ian citizen after he tried to break through a highway guerrilla road-block, purportedly killing one gunman in the process.

An Italian passport and Lebanese residency permit the gun-men displayed identified the man as Salvatore Santoro. A document from the Italian Embassy in Beirut seeking an Iraqi visa for the man called him an aid worker helping Iraqi children

## in Iraq

PAGE 3

As of Wednesday, at least 1.303 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,019 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Depart-ment's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths. Italy has reported 19: Poland, 13: Spain, 11: Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia Thailand and the Netherlands, two each, Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,165 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 910 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

The latest deaths reported

by the military:

A Marine was killed Tuesday in Anbar province.

■ A soldier died Tuesday from gunshot wounds sustained during a convoy mission south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications re-

ported by the military:

Marine Cpl. Michael D. Anderson, 21, Modesto, Calif.; killed Tuesday in Anbar province, Iraq; as-signed to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expedition-

Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Marine Lance Cpl.
Joshua W. Dickinson, 25, of New Port Richey, Fla.; killed Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

■ Army Sgt. Tina S. Time, 22, Tucson, Ariz.; died Monday in a vehicle accident near Cedar, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserve's 208th Transportation Company, Tucson,

Iraqi police officers celebrate Thursday after a graduation ceremony marking the end of an eight-week course at the Iordan International Police Training Center in Muwaqqar, Jordan.



### Iraqi police recruits end Jordan training

MUWAQQAR, Jordan batch of 1.431 Iragi police recruits ended six weeks of training in Jordan on Thursday, part of a U.S.-funded effort to rebuild security forces in the violence-rayaged country.

The graduates, wearing navy blue uniforms and baseball caps, stood in attention as a Jordanian po-lice band played the Iraqi national anthem at a ceremony at the Jor-dan International Police Training Center in Muwaggar, 22 miles east

Thursday's graduates were the 11th batch, and the largest, since training began in November 2003.

Iraqi police have become frequent targets of insurgents fighting the U.S. led multinational force in Iraq and the American-backed government in Baghdad. Hundreds have been killed in attacks on police stations, recruitment centers and convoys in an attempt to scare Iraqis away from joining the new police force and undermine the new government's efforts to restore security.

Under the agreement, nearly 32,000 Iraqi police recruits will be trained in Jordan over two years. So far more that 8 000 Iraqi police have ended their training and returned home

#### Alleged bin Laden tape praises attack on U.S. consulate recording of the sounds of the consulate at BY MAGGIE MICHAEL comment. The identity of the voice, howev

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt - A man identified as Osama bin Laden, speaking on an audiotape posted on an Islamic Web site Thursday, praised an attack earlier this month on a U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia and criticized the Saudi regime as weak and controlled by the United States.

The voice sounded like the al-Qaida terror chief's, and the tape, which was more than an hour, was posted on a site known as a clearinghouse for militant Islamic er, could not be independently confirmed.

The tape appeared the same day another dissident had called for anti-monarchy protests in the kingdom.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing the purported bin Laden tape. "it appears to be" the voice of the al-Qaida leader.

The tape's reference to the Dec. 6 attack - in which five militants shot their way into the compound of the U.S. Consulate in non-American employees - showed that it was made recently. Four of the attackers were killed and one was wounded in the

"God bless our brothers who stormed the American Consulate in Jiddah," the speaker said. "Those who were killed of our brothers, we ask God to accept them as martyrs." The attack was claimed at the time by al-Qaida's branch in the kingdom.

Also Thursday on the same Web site, an audiotape surfaced that was purportedly a tack transmitted via the attackers' mobile phones. Sirens, machine gun fire and shouts of "God is Great!" can be heard. At the end, a man recites Ouranic verses and then says: "Humiliation for America the infidel and its allies!"

The speaker in the purported bin Laden tape, speaking in calm and even tones, accused Saudi rulers of "violating God's rules," a common theme of bin Laden, who accuses Saudi rulers of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the "infidel" Unit-



Some 400 members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, known as Tiger Brigade, were presented with the Combat Infantryman Badge at a

## Brigade earns CIB in only few weeks in Iraq

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO Stars and Stripes

Wednesday ceremony at Camp Victory, Iraq.

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - The van-guard of the third wave of U.S. servicemembers in Iraq is already being tested under fire. Now they have the decorations to prove it

Wednesday night, less than six weeks after crossing from Kuwait into Iraq, some 370 members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, which only infantry soldiers coming under enemy fire can earn. The National Guard unit, which includes infantry battalions from Louisiana and New York, is the first part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, the latest rotation of troops to Iraq.

Around 30 medics from the Tiger Brigade, as the 256th is known, were also presented with the Combat Medical Bada the ceremony, held in the unit's Tiger Den dining facility.

"Even though Tiger Brigade has only been in country and on the job for five or six weeks." said 256th commander Brig Gen. John Basilica Jr., "the enemy did not wait to greet us.'

For some, the wait was shorter than for others

Spc. Jude Darby, 19, of Lafavette, La., saw action on his second day in country



44 The enemy did not wait to greet us.77

Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr. Commander, 256th Brigade Combat Team

"Basically, they shot at us, and we shot back," said the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment soldier. "It was our first time patrolling the area."

It surprised him that he was firing at insurgents so early into the deployment, he said. But since then, his unit has had some sort of enemy contact about every other day, he said.

For Staff Sgt. Paul Hiestand, of Compa-ny B, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, first contact came about two weeks after arriving in Iraq. He was on a gunslinger mission when insurgent mortars rained down on his patrol from close range.

A few days later, insurgents attacked his six-man team with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire. Hiestand and the other soldiers returned fire, eventually taking prisoners to the brigade detention facility.

But, Hiestand pointed out, only five of the six soldiers earned the CIB. The sixth soldier is an artilleryman who was working with the infantry soldiers. Because the regulations for the CIB specifically state the badge can be earned only by an infantryman, as defined by job title, the artilleryman, who was in combat with the infantry soldiers, does not qualify for the

In recent months, with tens of thou-sands of U.S. troops holding various job titles pressed to serve infantry-type roles, many have questioned whether the award should be broadened

"Personally. I think he should get the CIB, too," Hiestand said after receiving his badge. When the ceremony ended, Hiestand and other members of the natrol presented their CIBs to the artilleryman, a comrade in arms from the second inci-

Broadening the CIB would not be without precedent.

At Wednesday's ceremony, it was noted

that the Combat Medical Badge, established in 1945, was expanded in 1991 to medics assigned to ground soldiers other than just to infantry medics.

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### naconda stadium named in honor of fallen airman Member of 603rd Air Control Squadron killed in April mortar attack

### By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — In a brief, moving ceremony Wednesday. the outdoor stadium at LSA Anaconda was named in honor of an airman killed at the base in April

Holt Memorial Stadium will honor the memory of Airman 1st Class Antoine J. Holt, 20, a humble, athletic Georgian, who died when a mortar round struck his tent on the morning of April 10.

"It is only fitting that this stadium, where servicemembers train will bear his name," said Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commander of the 1st Corps Support Command. "I am proud to honor him today

With that, about 200 military members. mostly airmen.

#### watched as a plaque was unveiled 119 airmen have been wounded. that says the stadium is dedicated

to Holt and "all fallen airmen of Balad Air Base, Operation Iraqi Freedom. Holt's death would have been

unusual in past wars and combat operations. A member of the 603rd Air Control Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy, he normally would have been miles away from the fight.

That has been the traditional Air Force task, providing the air power from a distant base. The only casualties were the pilots or crewmen who flew aircraft into

But this is a different war. Holt is one of nine airmen to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Another Those are small numbers compared to Army and Marine losses, but substantial when considering the Air Force has a fraction of the troops in the area compared to the other branches

This war may change the way the Air Force is viewed, said several airmen who attended the ser-

"The perception always was, we send the pilots forward and everybody else stays back," said Senior Master Sgt. Virgil Horsley of the 606th Air Control Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germa-

About 2,500 airmen live at Balad Air Base, which is connected to LSA Anaconda. They provide convoy security, go on patrols and share many of the dan-gers usually reserved for soldiers and Marines. About that many again are based in other places in Iraq doing jobs that put them in danger on a daily basis.

"I think it's giving other services more of an understanding," Horsley said. "Talking to some of the Army folks, they're starting to see us in a different light." Serving alongside the other

branches in the combat zone, said 1st Lt. Barry Veen of the 240th Civil Engineer Flight, emphasiz es the unity of purpose and re-

Senior Airman Kyla Cavota of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing said this operation is putting Air Force members at risk just as it does other services

"We're more or less right along with them," she said. "We're at the front now."

Placing Holt's name on a stadium where the prevailing service is Army is one way to measure the changing perception.

'[He] was outstanding, as a person and an airman," Holt's commander at the time of his death, Lt. Col. Kristen Dolan, wrote in an e-mail response. "What impresses me most about him is the way he took care of others. He instinctively put his squadron mates ahead of himself."

She wrote: "The entire unit felt Antoine's loss very deeply. It was a privilege to serve with him, and I appreciate the fact that the leadership there has chosen to honor

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## **U.S.** warns of possible attacks in Kuwait

### Intelligence indicates terrorists groups are developing plans against unspecified targets

KUWAIT CITY - The U.S. Embassy on Wednesday warned Americans living in Kuwait of possible terror a tacks against them and asked them to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity to the police or the embassy. In a message e-mailed to American citizens, the embas-

sy said "it has credible information that terrorist groups are developing near-term plans for attacks against unspecified targets in Kuwait.

The embassy asked the 13,000 Americans registered with it to "exercise caution, maintain a low profile and avoid areas where Westerners are known to congregate."

It also told them to immediately report any suspicious activity to the Kuwaiti police or the embassy.

Kuwait has been a major ally of Washington since a U.S.-led coalition fought the 1991 Persian Gulf War that liberated it from a seven-month Iraqi occupation

The small oil-rich state that depends on the United States for protection was the launch pad for the war that toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein about two years

However, some fundamentalist militants have attacked American military personnel in recent years, killing one

Marine and an American civilian contracted to the mili-

Prior to the U.S. military personnel statistics for Kuwait being folded into Operation Iraqi Freedom data. Kuwait was host to just under 3.100 servicemembers.

The Army component of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Army Forces Central Command, maintains a forward presence in the region

The embassy message makes no reference to U.S. military personnel there.

Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

### **Honoring Tillman**



Comedian and actor Robin Williams, second from left, takes part in a groundbreaking ceremony for a USO center named in honor of Pat Tillman on Thursday at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Next to Williams, from left, are NFL Hall of Famer John Elway, model Leea Tweeden, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers and USO President and CEO Ned Powell. The USO center will honor Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals safety who left the NFL to join the Army Rangers and was killed in Afghanistan.



Model Leeann Tweeden, throws a football into the crowd of troops gathered at the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghani stan, on Thursday. Tweeden joined Williams, Elway and Myers to bring a little holiday cheer to U.S. forces.

### Rumsfeld to begin personally signing all condolence letters

BY LEO SHANE III

Stare and Strings

WASHINGTON - Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will begin personally signing condolence letters sent to families of troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, after receiving criticism over his use of mechanical signatures

In a statement provided to Stars and Stripes on Thursday, Rumsfeld tacitly admitted that in the past he has not personally signed the letters, but said he was responsible for writing and approving each of the 1,000-plus messages sent to the fallen soldiers' families

"I have directed that in the future I sign each letter," he said in

"I am deeply grateful for the many letters I have received from the families of those who have been killed in the service of our country, and I recognize and honor their personal loss.'

In a separate statement, Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita said "In the interest of ensuring timely contact with grieving family members, he has not individually signed each letter."

Department of Defense officials for the past few weeks had said only that the content of the

But several families of troops killed overseas said they were sure the notes they received had not been signed by hand, and said they were angry that Rumsfeld was not pay-



told Strines

only as someone who lost a loved one but also as someone who served in Iraq,' Army Spc.

ing attention

to their loss.

"To me it's

an insult, not

Ivan Medina

"This doesn't show our families the respect they deserve," said Medina, a New York resident whose twin brother, Irving, was killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq this summer.

Illinois resident Bette Sullivan whose son John was killed in November 2003 while working as an Army mechanic in Iraq, was incensed when she, her son's wife and her grandchildren received the exact same condolence letter with the apparently stamped signature

"If each family receives two copies, how many signatures does that amount to?" she asked in an understand the use of stamped signatures for his brothers' mementos but for those of his wife and children and mother? No, no,

Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, an author and frequent critic of the Department of Defense, publicly criticized Rumsfeld in a syndicated column earlier this month for not reviewing each KIA letter personally

He called the fake signatures "like having it signed by a monkey.'

"Using those machines is pretty common but it shouldn't be in cases of those who have died in action," he said. "How can [DOD officials] feel the emotional impact of that loss if they're not even looking at the letters

Hackworth said he objected to using the stamped signatures for promotion and commendation letters as well, but said not personally handling the condolence letters is a much more serious offense.

Family members had expressed similar concerns to Stripes about President Bush's signature on his condolence letters, but Allen Abney, spokesman for the president, said that Bush does personally sign the letters sent from the White House.

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### Secretary of defense issues statement

Statement by Secretary Rumsfeld on condolences to servicemembers and their loved ones as provided to Stars and Stripes:

"It is a solemn privilege of the many of us in the Department to meet with U.S. forces and families who have experienced injury or death in the defense

"During visits with wounded forces and their families at Walter Reed Army Hospital or at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. I have drawn inspiration from the dignity and resolve of these wonderful young Americans and their loved ones.

"Over the past years, my wife, Joyce, and I have met with several hundred wounded troops and their families during visits to intensive care units, therapy facilities, and their rooms in military hospitals in e United States and abroad.

"During visits to military installations, I have met with still others during their visits to the Pentagon.

"Joyce and I also have met together and individually with spouses and children of those killed in ac-

"At the earliest moment in the global war on terror. I determined that it is important that military families who have lost loved ones in hostile actions receive a letter from me directly.

"I wrote and approved the now more than 1000 letters sent to family members and next of kin of each of the servicemen and women killed in military action. While I have not individually signed each one, in the interest of ensuring expeditious contact with grieving family members, I have directed that in the future I sign each letter.

"I am deeply grateful for the many letters I have received from the families of those who have been killed in the service of our country, and I recognize and honor their personal loss.

## Army PCS orders may take drastic change

### Officers may receive as little as 45 days' notice instead of the normal 120 to 180, officials say

By LISA BURGESS Stars and Strings

ARLINGTON, Va. — Some Army officers and their families may now have as little as 45 days' notice to report to a new duty station, according to service personnel officials

The change is being driven by the "near-term turbulence" of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Army's simultaneous reorganization, said Lt. Col. Kevin Arata, a spokesman for the Human Resources Command.

Traditionally, officers received 120 to 180 days notification for permanent change of station, or PCS, Arata said.

change of station, or PCS, Arata said.

The system could affect about 51,000 active-duty Army officers and 11,000 warrant officers between now and the end of fiscal 2005 in October, Arata said.

As was first reported by The (Baltimore) Sun on Dec. 8, the Army's Human Resources Command's Officer Operations Division started notifying the first group of about 2,100 officers in September that they would need to PCS on short notice.

Two more groups will receive similar notifications in fiscal 2005, with the next letters starting to go out the first week of January. Arata said.

As it became clear earlier this year that Iraq deployments would continue until 2006 or longer, Army leaders decided to change the officer reassignment system, which filled vacancies on a more or less random basis, Arata said.

Instead, the leaders decided that units that are deployed or about to deploy would get priority when it came to filling officer vacancies. Arata said And because things come up in units preparing for Iraq or Afghanistan, Arata said, such a system meant that officers destined for the war units would probably receive much less notice to PCS.

For example, a lieutenant may break his leg during predeployment training, and as a result, his replacement would need to move quickly to take command of his new platoon.

But because such last-minute requirements rarely occur in large numbers, "most officers will continue to receive 120 and 180 days notice on pending PCS moves," Arata said.

In another effort to fully man deployed units, Army leaders have changed the status of officers working for Multi-National Force headquarters billets in Iraq and Afghanistan to a one-year, permanent change of station status, Arata said.

Until now, the Army used to deploy individual officers to these billets for a period of 179 days on a Temporary Change of Station, or TCS, basis.

The new policy will affect about 433 officers — 395 commissioned officers and 38 warrant officers, Arata said.

Army leaders decided to change the TCS to a PCS order because it provides more continuity for the headquarters staff, while at the same time, the officer's home unit can request a replacement for the slot opened by the PCS.

The Army does not allow such replacement if a soldier is on TCS orders.

PCS orders also allows families of the assigned officers to move to a different location while the officer is deployed, if they so choose, Arata said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

### Germany units prepare vehicles, equipment for Iraq

BY RICK EMERT

Stare and Strings

BAMBERG, Germany — Moving vehicles and equipment for a battalion-size unit deploying to Iraq takes more than just lining them up onto railcars and tractor-trailers.

The 409th Base Support Battalion, 529th Ordnance Company and 94th Engineer Battalion spent six days working around-the-clock to get the more than 500 vehicles and pieces of equipment ready and loaded for transportation to Kuwait, according to S. Joe Estores, 409th BSB mobilization officer.

Before the Installation Staging Area operation even began at Rose Barracks, the 409th BSB Public Affairs Office had to coordinate with local authorities to warn nearby towns of impending vehicle convoys that could potentially cause traffic bottlenecks, Estores said.

When the vehicles from the 94th Engineer Battalion, which deploys to Iraq early next year, arrived at Vilseck, the vehicles had to be cleaned before they could begin the process of being inspected and loaded onto railcars and trucks.

"Cleanliness is a part of it," Estores said. "Often the vehicles have to be driven on the way to the ISA, and they are going bet dirty. If the captain of the ship lon which the vehicles will travel to Kuwail says: I don't want that vehicle on my ship, it's dirty and could contaminate my other cargo, then that's it. The captain of the ship has the final say."

That makes the 37 inspectors provided by the 529th Ordnance Company in Vilseck so important.

Although the inspectors had to scrutinize every vehicle being loaded, some prior coordination by the 529th Ordnance and a proactive approach from the 94th En-



ATHY JORDAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Arms

Soldiers from the 94th Engineer Battalion prepare their vehicles Saturday to be loaded onto rail cars in Vilseck, Germany, More than 500 vehicles were inspected and loaded onto rail cars and long-haul tractor-trailers during the six-day operation that ended Monday.

gineers sped things along

"For the most part, the 94th vehicles were in great condition," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Tafoya, who led the team of inspectors from the S29th Orlanace Company. "Out of 350 vehicles processed, only a couple had to be held up for more than two hours because they needed extra maintenance. Every vehicle made its rail time."

"We met with the 94th before the operation began to go over their documentation," Tafoya said. Documentation like the transportation control movement order, vehicle scanning document and dispatch must be in order to prevent delays at the port. "If those weren't ready, we would have to spend about 45 minutes for each vehicle doing it at

the site."

The vehicles had to go through five stations of inspection before loading onto the railcars and tractor-trailers.

The loading of the equipment forced soldiers to work well into the night.

"There is a time line to meet that is dictated by the time that the train has to leave," Estores said. "We can't delay departure of the train."

Since the trains had to depart at 2 a.m. and noon each day, personnel at the railhead spent hours before those times to get the vehicles ready to load in a timely manner, Estores said.

While the six-day staging area and railhead operations had to fall into a routine to be efficient, Estores, as the mobilization officer, said the mission is special to him.

"A lot of people may think of this as a routine mission, but it's special to me," said Estores, who served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.

"When I do what I'm doing and know that it's benefiting the 12D, that's grafifying, I told these young soldiers who were out here loading their vehicles that they are performing an important mission. I'm honored and privileged to be here doing this for them."

E-mail Rick Emert at:

### U.S. Navy to expand inquiry on Iraq abuse

### BY SETH HETTENA

The Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — The Navy
SEALs are expanding their investigation into recently published photographs that show
freshly captured prisoners and
grinning commandos sitting or
lying on hooded and handcuffed detainees in Iraq, a
spokesman said.

Following a preliminary inquiry, senior SEAL officials have decided to take a more thorough look at the circumstances surrounding some of the photos, Navy Cmdr. Jeff Bender said Wednesday. Some of the images also show the bloodied faces of detainees.

Such an investigation, which will take up to a month, could result in disciplinary proceedings.

The preliminary inquiry by

a single Nany investigator found that the majority of the 15 photographs published Doc. 3 by the Associated Press were taken for legitimate intelligence-gathering purposes and showed commandos using approved procedures, Bender said. He cited as an example a photo in which a weapon with a flashlight attached is pointed at a detainee's head to illuminate his face as another commando snapped a photo.

But other photos appear to show Navy SEALs posing for photos on top of hooded and handcuffed detainees in the back of a pickup truck. Bender declined to comment on the pickup truck photos, citing the ongoing investigation.

Bender said some SEALs have been called in for questioning during the preliminary inquiry, which was launched after the AP brought the photos to the Navy seeking comment.

## In Iraq, video war is break from real fight

BY JOSH WHITE The Washington Post

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — "Die, die, die!" shouted Pfc. Joe Girardin, rising suddenly to his feet, grimacing. He launched a grenade, triumphantly throwing a fist into

the air. "Boom!"

This was the war scene in a small trailer at this US. military camp near Baghdad in the wee hours of the morning last week-end, amid empty Pringles tubes, Pepsi cans, cigarette boxes and the swirling tunes of Jimi Hendrix and Metallica. The 29-inch color screen burst with machine-gun and rocket blasts, but the only treat critical way to be a second to the color of the color

Outside the trailer, in the chilly desert darkness, he real war continued. Soldiers prepared for missions and patrols in armored Humeves, shoulddered their M-16s and braced for the possibility of a combon or an enemy assault. Mortar rounds and explosions sent hollow thuds echoing for miles.

The trailer was an escape for the young soldiers. Girardin, 19, of Long Island, N.Y., was glued to his Army-issued television and the video game images pulsing across it. He was stalking Spc. Criss Sanders, 21, of Miami, who seemed along the control of the cont

"Don't take it so hard," Sanders



THE WASHINGTON POST/LATWP

Spc. Brian Schroeder, left, takes a break from music to look at a magazine with Ptc. Joe Girardin. Pinups, but no pornography, decorate the trailer's walls. Between guard duty and patrols, soldiers in Iraq gather to crash fast cars, play volleyball with buxom women and wage virtual warfare.

said softly from beneath his low-slung floppy camo hat, already concentrating on his next as-

"I'll show you how to use the sniper rifle."

Like the teenagers and college students across America who sit on couches late on weekend nights and into the next morning, these soldiers spend their free hours on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital killing one another in Xbox and PlayStation2 games such as Halo and Mortal Kombat. Between guard duty and patrols and shifts at the dining facility, they gather to crash fast cars, play volleyball with buxom women and mimic

It's a virtual reality that at least temporarily hides the real war out-

"I don't like to leave the room, if possible," Girardin said, only partially in jest. He spends his days in a large tent as an administrator with the headquarters company of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. "You forget where you are when you're in this room. Then you step outside and the reality hits you. You're in Taq, I try not to leave."

The smells of incense and cheap cigarettes floated into the darkness as the only door to the trailer section swung open. Inside, it's not unlike many college dorm rooms

or fraternity house bedrooms. The walls are papered with images of scantily clad women, a collection of magazine pinnys that include dozens of celebrities and supermodels from the pages of For Him Magazine and Maxim. Because pornography is banned on these deployments, it's all PG-13.

Two beds, two stand-alone closets, two folding camp chairs and a makeshift coffee table are about all the room can handle, but four or more people regularly cram inside to complete the gaming ritu-

als. A tiny Christmas tree adorned with golden ornaments is dwarfed by the television set, which rests atop a white mini-fridge.

atop a winter mini-regemmunicatippecodemical was a compared to the state of the s

On this base near Baghdad International Airport, there's a post exchange that carries numerous movies; games and game systems, the mess hall is a cacophony of films, sports and news shown on enormous flat-screen televisions during meals. The recreation center includes a movie room, a pool table, a Ping-Pong table and a lounge with leather couches.

Internet cafes and workstations offer the soldiers contact with home, and some get the chance to speak with their families via video-teleconferencing sessions set up by the military.

Individual barracks rooms are in trailers that cover the base in long, straight lines, their porch lights a guide to night-flying helicopters. Enlisted soldiers live in pairs and do what they can to make their quarters feel like

Pfc. David Usry, 25, of Tampa, is Girardin's roommate, a stocky cook with a nearly shaved head and the oldest member of this social club.

"I play every chance I get," he says, the clock passing 1:30 a.m. "I should be asleep now. Oh

Sitting next to him is Spc. Robert McKinney, 23, of Brooklyn, N.Y., whose eyes go wide when he shoots at an enemy in Halo. "Don't beg, don't beg," McKinney chimes in. "Everyone gets to die."

"We sort of zone out and know we can sit here and kill each other, and no one gets hurt," McKinney says later. "Everyone comes out alive."



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### U.S. helo crashes in Afghanistan; no casualties KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. military helicopter crashed Thurs-

day in northwestern Afghanistan, injuring both pilots who were then evacuated, a coalition statement said.

"This crash was not the result of any hostile action, and, according to the pilots, there was no fire reported from the ground," the statement said. "The crash site was secured immediately, and there were no enemy forces reported in the area."

The pilots' injuries were "non life-threatening," it added.

The Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopter went down just north of Shin-

dand in Herat province. An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the crash.

### GI who filed suit against Army sent to Fort Hood

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Doctors at a Fort Hood, Texas, hospital are to evaluate an Arkansas soldier to see if he is well enough to return to Iraq after he sought hospital care rather than go back overseas, the Arkansas National Guard said Wednesday.

Transport Spc. David Qualls of Morrilton was transferred to Fort Hood on Wednesday after he checked into a North Little Rock veterans' facility earlier this week, said Arkansas National Guard spokeswoman Capt. Kristine M. Munn.

Qualls' lawyers said he "suffered intense distress" after a federal judge in Washington, D.C., refused his request last week for a temporary restraining order to allow him to stay home on leave. He feared retaliation by the military, his lawyer said.

From The Associated Press

### IN THE STATES

## **Time to overhaul Social Security, Bush says**

BY LEIGH STROPE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday that "now is the time to confront Social Security" to deal with a projected \$3.7 trillion, 75-year shortfall and give younger workers the ability to invest some of their contributions into personal accounts.

Bush also promised to send Congress "a tough budget" early next year to hold the line on federal spending. "If the deficit is an issue, which it is, it's going to require some tough choices on the spending side," the president told a White House economic conference.

The president credited his tax-cutting

policies with reviving the economy. Bush said his strategy will be "to grow the economy with reasonable tax policy but to make sure the deficit is dealt with by being wise about how we spend money."

"It's not going to be easy," Bush said. "It turns out [congressional] appropriators take their title seriously."

Bush said that dealing with Social Security would be a top priority. All participants on Thursday's panel, including financial service firm officials, supported Bush's Social Security plans.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said Wall Street's support for partial privatization was a conflict of interest, calling it "a risky scheme for America, but a sure bet for the financial services industry" Sweeney urged the Securities Industry Association to disavow Bush's planned overhaul. "Will the financial services industry behave as professionals with a duty to speak candidly to the investing public, or will elements of the industry once again seek to make money at the expense of their customers, only this time on a much grander scale?" Sweeney said in a letter.

Bush was not specific about his own ideas for solving the problem, but laid out a few do-or-die principles.

He said that for an undefined group of seniors "nothing will change" in their benefit structure, that there should be no increase in payroll taxes and that younger workers should be moved toward private accounts for some portion of their Social Security contributions.

The audience chuckled as Bush wrapped up his list of requirements by adding, "With those principles in mind, I'm open-minded with the members of Con-

Bush said there are more Americans who have no confidence they will ever see any Social Security benefits than people who are worried their current checks will

"I think Congress needs to understand that," he said.

Democrats say supporters of personal accounts are exaggerating Social Security's funding problem.

In 2018, the system starts pages of

more in benefits than it collects in taxes. In 2042, the system will be able to cover 73 percent of promised benefits, according to Social Security's trustees.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, speaks to the media with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan after the two met Thursday in Washington.



### Annan, Powell discuss Iraq vote

BY ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell gave understated praise Thursday for preparations the United Nations is making to support elections in Iraq, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the world body will beef up its support if need be.

"The U.N. effort seems to be on track in support of the Iraqi effort" to hold nationwide elections on Jan. 30, Powell said after a State Department meeting with

Iraqis themselves "have the principal responsibility," Powell said

Powell noted that the United Nations is taking the first steps to expand its presence in Iraq outside Baghdad to the cities of Basra and Irbil and has increased the number of election experts it will deploy in Iraq.

The United States have been pressing Annan to do more, and is unlikely to be satisfied with the current commitment of 25 election monitors.

"We have enough people in

there to do the work," Annan said. "And if need be, we'll put in the staff we need to get the work done. It's not a question of numbers; it's a question of what you need to get the job done." Then Annan asked himself a

Then Annan asked himself a question. "Are we doing the job? Yes, we are doing the job," he said.

The meeting with Powell was probably Annan's last before Powell leaves the job next year. White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice will replace Powell, and Annan was meeting with her at the White House later Thursday.

### Comedian Chevy Chase bashes Bush in foul rant during awards ceremony

BY RICHARD LEIBY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Even certified Hollywood liberals weer reding after Chevy Chase's potty-mouthed Bush-bashing Tuesday night at the Kennedy Center, where the actor hosted an awards ceremony staged by People for the American Way

For most of the evening, Chase was his usual comedic self, delivering lines such as "This just in: resignations in the upper chelolog of the Bush administration. The Bush sisters have resigned and are being replaced by Paris and Nicky Hilton. Back for more news later."

After actors Alec Baldwin and Susan Sarandon delivered speeches accepting their Defender of Denocracy awards, Chase took the stage a final time and unleashed a rant against President Bush that stunned the crowd. He deployed the four-letter word that got Vice President Dick Cheney in hot water, using it as a noun. Chase called the prez a "dumb [expletite]." He also used it as an adjective]. "He also used it as an adjective, assuring the audience, "I'm no [expletive] clown either. ... This guy started a jihad." Chase also said: "This guy in of-

fice is an uneducated, real lying schmuck ... and we still couldn't beat him with a bore like Kerry." People for the American Way

distanced itself Wednesday from the actor's rant. "Chey Chase's improvised remarks caught everyone off guard, and were inappropriate and offensive," Ralph Neas, the liberal advocacy group's president, said in a statement. "It was not what I would have said, and certainly not the language People for the American Way would ever use in discussing any president of the Unit-

Founder Norman Lear agreed: "I thought it was utterly untoward, obviously unexpected and unscripted and all that stuff. And, uh — it was Chevy Chase. He'll live with it, I won't."

Sen. Tom Daschle, the former minority leader, looked taken aback when he went on directly after Chase.

His opening line: "I've had to follow a lot of speakers, but ..."

### Inauguration to have heavy military overtones

BY JOHANNA NEUMAN

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As he leaves the Capitol after taking the oath of office Jan. 20, George W. Bush is expected to exercise a familiar presidential prerogative — reviewing the troops.

Then the real embrace of the military be-

Then the real embrace of the military t gins.

Bush, who campaigned for re-election as a wartime president, will have more than the usual presence of military flourishes at his second-term inaugural ceremonies. With 138,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq and casualties reported nearly every day, the White House wanted to showcase the role of the armed services in the war against terrorism as well as in

the nation's premier display of a peaceful transition of power.

officials are tight-lipped about details. But the military theme will thread through the 10 days of inaugural events normally highlighted

This year, on the night of the inauguration, there will be a Commander in Chief Ball, open to troops who have just returned from Afghanistan or Iraq or are about to be deployed to either place.

by pomp and circumstance.

Unlike the other eight official balls, this ball will be free to 2,000 enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers and their families.

The president by tradition attends all nine balls, so the invited servicemembers will have an opportunity to socialize with their commander in chief. Contributors will pay as

much as \$250,000 to attend the balls and other inaugural events.

There will be a pre-inaugural gala, billed as "America's Heroes: A Salute to Those Who Serve," at the MCI Center, which can seat more than 13,000.

And there will be 2,100 military personnel playing in bands, appearing on floats or performing in the inaugural parade, with thousands more in ceremonial units, honor cordons and even amouncing the names of participants to spectators lining the route.

"The fact that we're a nation at war will be reflected throughout the inaugural," said Tracey Schmitt, a spokeswoman for the inaugural committee. "This is a way to pay tribute to those who sacrifice every day for the security of our country. We are working to celebrate the hard work of men and women of our military."

### Fake bomb lost

NEWARK, N.J. — Baggage screeners at Newark Liberty International Airport spotted — and then lost — a fake bomb planted in luggage by a supervi-

sor during a training exercise
Despite an hours-long
Despite an hours-long
Despite and hours-long
Despite with wires, a detonator
and a clock, made it onto an
Despite with work and the control
Despite the control of the control
Despite the contro

Ann Davis, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, said the TSA is still investigating how screeners lost track of the bag.

### **Count goes on**

### Ballot after ballot examined in Ohio as campaigns watch

By JOHN NOLAN

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI - In a scene reminiscent of Florida circa 2000, two teams of Republican and Democratic election workers held punch-card ballots up to the light and whispered back and forth as they tried to divine the voters' intent from a few hanging

Observers for the presidential campaigns of John Kerry, President Bush and Green Party candidate David Cobb kept watch from chairs a few feet away.

The scene is being repeated statewide this week in a recount in the state that put Bush over the top in the election last month

Officially, Bush beat Kerry by 119,000 votes in Ohio, but two third-party candidates collected the required \$113,600 for a recount they claim will show serious irregularities. The Kerry campaign is supporting the recount, though it has acknowledged it will not change the outcome.

The recounts began this week. At least 35 of Ohio's 88 counties had completed their recounts or were starting Wednesday, according to a survey by The Associated Press. Some of the tallies will not be complete until next week.

"It takes a lot of work, a lot of hours," said Kerry campaign observer Jeannette Harrison, 63, a real es-

tate agent. "This is a job that has to be done. In Cincinnati, the Hamilton County workers grimaced in concentration as they examined the ballot holes up close - a scene that called to mind the five weeks of recounts in Florida that made the terms "pregnant chad" and "butterfly ballot" famous.



Administrator of operations Tony Reissig checks ballots as they are recounted Wednesday at the Hamilton County Board of Elections in Cincinnati.

Statewide, about 92,000 ballots cast in last month's presidential election failed to record a vote for president, most of them on punch-card systems.

Hamilton County workers wrote their results on tally sheets as they counted ballots from 30 precincts randomly selected from the county's 1,013 a total of about 13,000 of 433,000 ballots cast in November in the county.

Under Ohio law, workers must hand-count 3 percent of ballots. If the results match the certified results exactly, all other ballots can be recounted by machine. If the totals are off, all ballots must be counted by hand, adding days or weeks to the pro-

### Kerry campaign manager admits downplaying ads

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - The campaign manager for Sen. John Kerry's failed presidential bid said she regrets underestimating

the impact of an attack advertisement that ques-tioned Kerry's Vietnam War record. Mary Beth Cahill, who spoke Wednesday

at Harvard University's Kennedy

School of Government with Ken Mehlman, President Bush's campaign manager, said the Massa-

tially thought there would be "no reach" to the ad from Swift Boat

Veterans for Truth. Instead, the ad, which initially aired in just three states, became a central issue of the campaign, eventually forcing Kerry to per-sonally deny the group's allegations that he did not deserve his

combat medals. "This is the best \$40,000 invest-ment made by any political group, but it was only because of the news coverage that it got where it did," she said. "In hindsight, maybe we

should have put Sen. Kerry out earlier, perhaps we could have cut it off earlier."

Mehlman said that it was natural that the ad had the reach and impact it did, because Kerry de-cided to make his Vietnam record a central part of his campaign.

### **Fannie Mae violations**

WASHINGTON - A review by the Securities and Exchange Commission has found that Fannie Mae violated accounting rules, buttressing earlier determinations by another federal regulator and amplifying the prospect of an earnings restatement by the mortgage giant.

Its shares were down \$2.92, or 4.1 percent, at \$67.77 in electron-

ic trading in advance of the opening of the N.Y. Stock Exchange

SEC Chief Accountant Donald Nicolaisen on Wednesday said Fannie Mae's accounting for 2001 through mid-2004 "did not comply in material respects" with accounting rules for derivatives, financial instruments used to hedge against interest-rate swings, and for some transactions related to loans.

From wire reports

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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#### Gore's mother dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Pauline Gore, whose son Al became vice president and nearly captured the presidency and whose husband had a long and distinguished career in Congress, died

Wednesday. She was 92. She had been weakened in recent years by strokes and a heart attack, and died in at her home in

Trained as a lawyer, Pauline Gore was a familiar figure on the campaign trails of her husband, Albert Gore Sr., and her son, former Vice President Al Gore.

former Vice President Al Gore.
She played a central role in shaping her husband's campaign strategy. Gore Sr. was a liberal Democrat who served in the House from 1939 to 1953 and the Senate from 1953 to 1970 and aspired to the presidency himself. He died in 1998.

Al Gore Jr. is the Gores' only living child. Their daughter, Nancy, died of cancer in 1984. Other survivors include a brother, Whit LaFon of Jackson, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Saturday in

#### New insomnia drug

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a new drug for people with insomnia.

The agency approved the sale of Lunesta, made by the pharma-ceutical company Sepracor, for both chronic and occasional insomnia, a problem for millions of people.

#### Arms ban up for vote

SAN FRANCISCO — City residents will vote next year on a proposed weapons ban that would deny handguns to everyone except law enforcement officers, members of the military and security guards.

If passed next November, residents would have 90 days to give up firearms they keep in their homes or businesses. The proposal was immediately dismissed as illegal by a gun owners group.

From The Associated Press

### **Benefits of birth control pills disputed**

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE, Wis — A study concluding that birth control pills slightly lowered the risk of heart disease has now been called into question by U.S. federal officials who say it was flawed and wasn't properly reviewed before it was presented at a major medical meeting in October.

Doctors from Wayne State University in Detroit had presented two studies at a reproductive medicine meeting in Philadelphia claiming that oral contraceptives lowered heart risks and did not increase the risk of breast cancer.

That got a lot of attention because the conclusions were opposite what previous studies had found. The new information also came from the largest women's health study ever done in the Unit-

But on Wednesday, Dr. Barbara Alving of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funds and oversees the national study, said these particular analyses hadn't been properly reviewed, and that a new analysis by senior statisticians had determined that the heart findings were flawed.

Once age and other factors

were considered, they "could not find a relationship" between pill use and heart disease, Alving said. The breast cancer findings also are suspect now, she said.

The research was from the Women's Health Initiative, betwom for its landmark finding in 2002 that taking hormones after menopause raised the risk of certain cancers and heart problems. But it is not the best kind of study for determining risks of

oral contraceptives, Alving said. That's because it relies on women's memories of what drugs they used in previous years rather than actual hospital or medical Previous studies that were more scientifically sound have found that pill-users have a small increased risk of blood clots, heart attacks and stroke, she said. The Detroit researchers reported a small benefit — pill users reportedly had 8 percent less risk of cardiovascular disease and 7 percent less risk of developing any form of cancer.

But those findings were based on information women gave about whether they'd ever had heart problems or cancer, and were not verified with medical records as other WHI findings have been, Alving said.

### Buffalo heading home to roam on range

records.

The Associated Press

SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, Calif. — After a life spent on a balmy Pacific island, 98 buffalo are being sent back to an authentic — and frigid — home on the range.

The buffalo began their journey Wednesday from Santa Catalina Island, off the coast of Southern California, to South Dakota, where they'll live on traditional rangelands of the Rosebud Lakota reservation.

The animals, some standing 5 feet at the shoulder and weighing several thousand pounds, are the descendants of an original herd of 14 brought from the prairie to appear in the 1920s silent movie, "The Vanishing American." Once the film was completed, the buffalo were simply left behind on the island.

"The idea was to get these buffalo that were taken from the plains some 80 years ago... back to their homeland," said Maurel Lyons, chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, which is paying the \$75,000 cost to ship the animals.



Andy Guiding Young Cloud, second from right, along with other Tongva dancers, give a herd of approximately 100 buffalo their blessings on South Catalina Island in Avalon, Calif. The buffalo will be repatriated to American Indians in South Dakota.

"To the Native Americans back there, these animals are sacred," he said. "It was very moving. They'll be going home to their relatives."

After being lured into pens with hay, the buffalo were herded

onto two, 18-wheel trucks and then taken by barge the 24 miles across the sea to Long Beach.

From there, it was on to the reservation more than a thousand miles inland, where the animals were to arrive Thursday night.

In the past, the numbers of island buffalo were thinned by auctioning animals. But the conservancy's new management decided to try a different approach.

"This seemed like a solution where everybody would win," she

About 150 buffalo continue to inhabit the island, living off its sparse vegetation. A smaller heard also means less destruction of native plants.

The Lakota reservation already has buffalo, and the conservancy said there shouldn't be any problems with the newcomers acclimating, despite the fact that they'll be moving to a place with subzero winters.

As a test, the conservancy shipped some buffalo to the reservation last year.

"The minute they hit the ground, it was like their genetics kicked in and immediately they began growing a winter coat," Baer said.

The newcomers will have a lot more room to roam.

"They're going from 42,000 acres to 900,000," Baer said. "So they got a pretty good deal except for the snowy winters."

### Crowds gather for Hawaii contest despite big wave warnings



AP

1110 12550014104 1 7 055

HALEIWA, Hawaii — Giant waves crashed along the North Shore of Oahu Wednesday, leaving sand and debris on roadways and prompting officials to close beaches as waves reached 40 feet and higher.

But amid the debris, world-class surfers gathered for a rare big-wave surfing competition that occurs only when such enormous waves sweep the island's coast.

Kelly Slater, a former world champion and one of the 24 elite surfers invited to surf the Quiksilver In Memory of Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational, described the waves at Waimea Bay as "giant."

"I don't think I've seen it like this," Slater said.

Bruce Irons of Kauai placed first, ahead of 2001 winner Ross Clarke-Jones of Australia and Shane Dorian of the Big Island.

Irons' brother, the reigning three-time world champion Andy Irons, placed fourth. The competition is held only

when the waves reach giant proportions — only six times in the last 19 years. Wave heights were reported to peak Wednesday morning be-

peak Wednesday morning between 30 and 40 feet at Waimea Bay. Forecasters had earlier predicted 50 foot faces.

The water began coming ashore before dawn, crossing roads and leaving sand and debris in its wake, prompting officials to close a portion of Kamehameha Highway in the North Shore town of Haleiwa.

Oahu Civil Defense advised res-

and UVIN Detense advised residents to avoid the beaches and stay out of the water, but crowds began gathering before dawn at Waimea Bay Beach Park for big wave surf contest.

Rusty Keaulana of Hawaii takes a large wave in the first heat of the Eddie Aikau Invitational on Waimea Bay in Haleiwa, Hawaii, on Wednesday. "The Eddie" is a one-day event held when waves are 30 feet or higher.

### IN THE WORLD

### **EU opens Turkey talks**

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union leaders are ex-pected to approve opening talks with Turkey on its wish to join the EU, but may impose stiff conditions on Ankara during a two-day summit opening Thursday.

The prospect of a populous state with a strong Muslim majority joining the 25-nation bloc has split governments and public opinion. The president of the EU commission warned that significant goals still had to be met

Turkey "must go the extra mile, and give clear signals of its European future," Jose

Manuel Barrosc

Conditions could include the recognition of Cyprus and a better human rights record or even limitations on the movement of Turkish workers once membership is achieved.

## Yushchenko points to government

### Opposition leader believes poisoning occurred at dinner with Ukranian official

BY YURAS KARMANAU

KIEV, Ukraine - Opposition leader Viktor Vushchenko said Thursday that he was sure he was poisoned by the Ukrainian government and believes it most likely happened at a dinner he had with the country's top security service officials

Yushchenko's comments, made in an interview, were the first time he pinpointed when and where he believed he was poisoned with dioxin. He said it likely happened at a Sept. 5 dinner with the head of the Ukrainian security service,

Ihor Smeshko, and his deputy, Volodymyr Satsyuk.

"That was the only place where no one from my team was present and no precautions were taken concerning the food," he said, "It was a project of political murder, prepared by the authorities.'

A parliamentary commission that investigated Yushchenko's mysterious illness in October said he had complained of pains - including a headache about three hours after the meal and an acute stomach ache the next day.

Yushchenko, who was disfig-ured by poisoning, siad that Ukrainian prosecutors were looking into the case and said he was confident the official culprits would be pun-

Members of Yushchenko's campaign team had spoken of the security dinner as a possible site of the poisoning, but Yushchenko himself had until now refrained from pointing the finger at specific offi-

Experts say it is impossible for Yushchenko to have naturally acquired such high levels of dioxin. New tests reveal the level in his blood is more than 6,000 times higher than normal and is the second highest ever recorded in human history, said Abraham

Brouwer, professor of environ-mental toxicology at the Free University in Amsterdam, where blood samples taken in Vienna were sent for analysis.

Brouwer's team has narrowed the search from more than 400 dioxins to about 29 and is confident they will identify the poison by week's end.

Poisoning experts say those who spiked Yushchenko's food may have aimed to kill him or may simply have tried to debilitate him during the election campaign.

What constitutes a lethal dose of dioxin has never been established, because nobody has ever been known to die from it.

### Britain's high court deals blow to national anti-terror policy

House of Lords rules suspects cannot be held indefinitely without trial

BY BETH GARDINER

The Associated Press

LONDON - Britain's highest court dealt a huge blow to the gov ernment's anti-terrorism policy Thursday by ruling that it cannot detain foreign suspects indefinite-

Judges in the House of Lords ruled 8-1 in favor of a group of foreign men jailed without charge for up to three years. Their lawyers say their detention is a gross violation of human rights.

One judge described the law allowing them to be held as a greater threat to the nation than terror-

The British government had argued that the detention without trial of some terrorist suspects was a tough but necessary measure to protect a free society from the threat of devastating attacks.

While the judges cannot directly strike down the law, their ruling that it is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights puts the onus on the government to resolve that conflict by repealing or amending the disputed provision.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke said the detainees would remain imprisoned and the law would stay in force while legislators considered what to do next.

The nine law lords — members of the House of Lords who constitute Britain's highest court of appeal - voted against the measures brought in after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, under which foreign terrorist suspects may be deindefinitely without charge or trial if they cannot safely be removed to another country.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill presented the majority opinion.

"The measures unjustifiably discriminate against foreign na tionals on the grounds of their nationality or immigration status and are not strictly required since they provide for the detention of some but not all of those who present the same risk," he

He was referring to the distinction the law makes between British suspects and foreigners. The law applies only to terrorism suspects who are not British citizens and whose lives would be endangered if they were deported.

Seventeen people have been detained under the disputed provi-sion of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act. Eleven remain in custody and six have been freed, deported or detained under other powers.

The government has not told the detainees why they were arrested, or on what evidence.

### Greek hijacking ends



mian immigrants Leonard Murati, right, and Gaz Resuli, back left, are escorted by plainclothes police officers outside Greek police headquarters in Athens on Thursday. The two men who hijacked a bus for 18 hours and demanded \$ 1.33 million surrendered to authorities after releasing all hostages. The government appealed for calm on Thursday fearing a public backlash against immigrants living in Greece.

### 10 convicted, sentenced in 2000 plot to blow up French Christmas market

BY VERENA VON DERSCHAU The Associated Press

PARIS - Ten accused Islamic militants were convicted Thursday and sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to 10 years for their roles in a millennium plot to blow up a Christmas market in the eastern city of Strasbourg on New Year's Eve 2000.

The suspects — Algerian nationals and French citizens of Algerian origin who included an alleged associate of al-Oaida leader Osama bin Laden - went on trial in October on charges they were involved in the foiled plot.

They were convicted of criminal association with a terrorist enterprise that state prosecutor Christophe Tessier alleged had links to Islamic networks in Britain, Italy and Spain. Cooperation between French

and German police led to the arrest in late 2000 of a Frank-furt-based group of Algerians who allegedly planned to attack the market. The bombing "was avoided by a hair," Tessier said last month.

Strasbourg's well-known market is set up around the city's cathedral during the Christmas period and becomes a major gathering place.

France opened an investigation after four suspected Islamic radicals were arrested in Frankfurt Germany, in possession of a map of Strasbourg and a video cassette showing the market. The four were convicted in Ger-

many in March 2003 and received prison terms ranging from 10 to 12 years. The German court said the group had planned to blow up pressure cookers packed with explosives, a technique they allegedly learned in Afghan

Those tried in Paris included Slimane Khalfaoui, 29; Yacine Akhnouche, 30; Rabah Kadri, 37; and Mohamed Bensakria, 37 considered one of bin Laden's lieutenants in Europe. Bensakria was extradited from Spain in summer 2001

Khalfaoui and Bensakria received maximum 10-year sentenc-



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### Route Irish now safer

Route Irish, aka Airport Road, was fea-tured in the Dec. 3 article "Mortar rounds strike central Baghdad" ("Mortar rounds hit Baghdad," European edition) that billed it as "the most dangerous highway in Iraq

While it is true that many anti-Iraqi forc es (AIF) attacks have occurred on this stretch of highway during the past few months, this unsubstantiated reporting re-flects a gross lack of responsibility. In reality, the number of attacks, and the unfortunate number of personnel wounded and killed, has plummeted.

Contrary to the fabricated reality created by the press, we are defeating the enemy. Improvised explosive devices? Suc-

cessful detonations have virtually ceased Rocket-propelled grenade attacks? We patrol so heavily that the enemy is forced to "shoot and scoot" with such careless-

to "shoot and scoot" with such careless-ness that they hit nothing. Vehicle-borne improvised explosive de-vices (VBIEDs)? The AIF has sent more than 20 young men to die needlessly in suicide attacks over the past month.

Due to the adaptability of our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), these desperate measures resulted in few casualties among coalition forces. These reductions are in direct correlation to the hard work, ingenuity and sacrifice of the soldiers and leaders patrolling this piece of asphalt, as well as the incorporation of the TTPs by convoys.

Irish is by no means a Sunday joyride; however, to call it "the most dangerous highway in Iraq" is creating a dangerous misconception. Given the low success rate and obvious importance that the enemy has placed on Route Irish by launching almost all of its VRIEDs at it, they have lost

The road is still open and travel continues. So why would Stars and Stripes, a paper that claims to care about soldiers, allow inaccuracies such as those in the Associated Press article to be published? Why would Stars and Stripes make it harder for the soldiers to make Iraq free by printing such sensational garbage Capt. Mike Higgins

#### **Hunting serves a purpose**

Thank you, Stars and Stripes, from all the personnel who will be unable to participate in this year's hunting seasons for the picture of the hunter on Dec. 3 (American Roundup).

Despite what the letter writer thinks ("Hunting photo unnecessary," Dec. 11), there are a lot of soldiers, sailors and airmen who enjoy hunting. Although it is no longer a matter of survival to hunt, it is one of the privileges and rights that we still have

It is guite apparent from the letter that the writer has not participated in this activ-

ity and is uninformed about the whole process. I suppose the writer would rather have untold thousands of game animals die the long, slow, agonizing death of starvation rather than have the chance for a quick, merciful death. That is what happens when there is no control of their populations.

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Also, the letter writer should be aware that a large percentage of funds that pro-vide for wildlife management, to include wetlands replenishment, comes from these same terrible people who hunt. A portion of every license sold goes to federal programs that benefit wildlife and pro-

vide funding to preserve wilderness areas Stripes, please keep the outdoors-type nictures — to include hunting and fishing - coming

Dave (Dusty) Breisch Würzburg, Germany

### **Hunting fights starvation**

In response to "Hunting photo unnecessary" (letter, Dec. 11): Hunting saves hundreds of deer each year from starving to death in the snow during the winter months. The deer population would grow overwhelmingly high without controlled deer hunting. With a high deer population grows famine and disea For the letter writer: Perhaps further ed-

ucating yourself on the benefits of hunting would have been best before ranting against Stars and Stripes and thousands of avid hunters. Vanessa Rock

Hohenfels Germany

### Hospital staff was great

One year ago, I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Suddenly I was more than just a wife, mother, daughter, sister, teacher, colleague or friend. I was also a statistic, one of the 1 in 8 American women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

I knew that early detection was one of the best defenses in surviving breast cancer. But I was busy and never got around to making an appointment the year before. When I finally made an appointment, more than two years had passed since my last mammogram.

The doctor felt a lump deep in my breast. The mammogram confirmed what the doctor had feared and I was scheduled for what was to be the first of two lumpectomies. Both tumors were cancerous

My mastectomy was scheduled for Janu-

ary and all went well under the skilled hands of Dr. (Lt. Col.) Richard E. Standaert, but there was also cancer in five out of the six lymph nodes that were removed.

Not good

Then I began the months of chemotherapy and, following that, radiation. The staff at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Oncology Department is wonderful. Dr. (Maj.) Joseph M. Flynn and the nurses, Patricia A. Benedict and Vandalyn Y. McNulty, to include Sgt. Cynthia A. Cone and Spc. Christopher S. Chico, were always professional, compassionate, caring and fun. Yes, fun! It never became a place I dreaded to go, and for that I will always be grateful

I was blessed with incredible support from my family, friends, colleagues and students at Ramstein Intermediate School. They gave me the strength I needed to face this challenge.

Please, if you are a woman, perform your monthly breast self-exams and get your annual mammogram if you are over 40. Making time for yourself now will help ensure that you have time for your family for many years to come.

Darilyn Shaver Ramstein, Germany

#### Inaccurate measurement

A reader in Heidelberg, Germany, was upset about Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld turning to the corporate world to run the military ("Rumsfeld a world away on hire," Dec. 3). In his letter, the writer makes the statement that, in war, "Success or failure is measured in the number of body bags shipped home."
In war, success or failure is measured

by how successfully one side or the other accomplishes its goals. Applying the writer's measure of success, the Germans actually defeated Russia in World War II because there were far more Russian casualties than German casualties on the Eastern Front, the Japanese won the war in China between 1937-1945 because more Chinese died than Japanese, and the Confederate States of America were victorious over the United States during the Civil War because the number of Confederate dead "body bags shipped home" was less than for the Union troops. Interesting theo-Jon Nylander

Yokosuka, Japan

#### Writing is on the wall

I believe the time has come to relegate 'Doonesbury" to the comics section. "Peanuts" would be a suitable replacement for the letters page. "Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau seems to keep asking him-self: "How can 60 million Americans be so stupid?"

The answer is that America does not need to apologize to anyone, including him. Guess what, real America has moral values. Trudeau can't seem to shake off the trauma of being wrong. What's worse is that he's lost his sense of humor. Wrong combination for a cartoonist.

It's time for "Doonesbury" to PCS.

Charles Cavill

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

### Doonesbury









STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

### **OPINION**

### U.S. military equipped with outspoken GIs

dward Lee Pitts deserves a Pulitzer Prize. And Thomas Wilson should get a Silver Star Pitts is the reporter from the

Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press who last week infiltrat-Zev Chafets ed Donald Rumsfeld's





troops-only "town meeting" in Kuwait and planted a question about the insufficiency of defensive equipment in the Iraqi theater.

A Tennessee National Guardsman, Wil-son, served as Pitts mouthpiece. He stood up and demanded to know if the secretary

of defense was aware that some American units had to scavenge for protective armor and what did Rumsfeld plan to do about it.

A Pentagon spokesman initially denounced Pitts and Wilson for breaking the rules of journalistic engagement. But the question hit a nerve and drew cheers from the audience Most of these meet-the-secretary events

are meaningless morale sessions, but this was different. Wilson's fellow Guardsmen cheered him not only for raising a troubling question but for having the brass to do it

Rumsfeld, to his credit, handled the question pretty well. His reply - you go to war with the army you have, not the army you'd like to have - was blunt but honest So was his admission that no amount of

Rumsfeld's critics are now assailing him for sounding crass. But a certain amount of

hardheartedness goes with his job, especially in wartime. Rumsfeld is in charge of spending American lives in the pursuit of That's a heavy Hand-wringing and false tears don't help.

Still, there is a limit to even Rumsfeld's candor. The secretary of defense didn't say, as he could rightly have, that the U.S. Army sends its troops into combat with fantastic technological advantages. Anyone who was a soldier even a decade ago marvels at the equipment American soldiers have, from night-fighting gear to computfrom protective Kevlar state-of-the-art scopes. When the U.S. military goes up against Arab insurgents - or the Iraqi army — there is simply no com-

This is as it should be. War isn't a game Fairness isn't a goal.

On the contrary, the whole point is to gain an overwhelming advantage

Despite its shortcomings, the Pentagon has largely done that job. By any standard short of perfection, American troops are astonishingly well-provisioned and equipped a fact attested to by the relative ease with which they win their battles.

It's worth remembering, though, that reat hardware is not the only explanation for American military superiority. Democracy, it turns out, is not simply the most pleasant form of government. It is also the most ruthlessly efficient - especially in

Within hours of the Rumsfeld town meet-



ing, the entire American media set up a hue and cry about what's missing in the Iraqi theater. After initial sputtering about a lack of resources, the Pentagon (inspired no doubt by an embarrassed secretary of defense) started talking about stepping up production of armored vehicles at home and greater attention to the safety of troops in the field.

This kind of public-driven improvement doesn't take place in the armies of America's adversaries, which are led by friends and relatives of dictators. Loyalty, not com-petence, is what counts in those armies. Sol-diers who ask questions are punished. Soldiers like Thomas Wilson who ask them publicly are shot (if they're lucky). Same for cheeky reporters like Edward Lee

Guys like Pitts and Wilson keep the Pentagon and the generals honest. In the end, they are a source of American military strength no less than the extra armored ve hicles that will - thanks to them - be moving down the assembly line for Iraq.

### With Internet, 'permanent record' no idle threat

BY EDWARD WASSERMAN

was a little matter, but the implications were big. Some years ago a stu-dent at a small college was inter-viewed for an undergraduate reporting project on weapons. (Both student and school shall go unnamed here.) He was brash and foolish, and he bragged about his collection, which he liked to keep close at hand. He was quoted at length: he sounded like a jerk. The article was posted on a departmental Web site.

Now, years later, it can be unearthed instantly by anybody with Internet access. If you Google the kid's name, the first entry that pops up makes him sound like Travis Bickel from "Taxi Driver." Hire him? A prospective employer would more likely call security. So the alumnus appealed to the school to help.

Which it can't, even if it wanted to. The feathers are out of the pillow, the toothpaste out of the tube. An incalculable number of copies of that item lurk on the Internet There's even a vast Invisible Web where dead Web sites live on. Expunging the record isn't an option

Such is the Internet's underside: an incapacity to forget. In cyberspace, information has two qualities that it has never quite had before: It is imperishable - and it is universally accessible. The combination has a disturbing potential that the usual norms of news media, which create so much information, never anticipated.

For reasons of law and custom, the media traditionally insist on a fairly clean distinction between public and private. They accept restrictions on poaching in the private sphere. But they insist that they're entitled to report on anything that's "public."

Fortunately, that's a right, not a reality.

As a practical matter, much of what's techni-

cally public remains effectively private from your age to the juicy details of your divorce, from how many cars you own to what your house is worth. Even police records: All but a tiny fraction of arrests go unpublicized to the wider world. Maybe that's bad But maybe that makes it easier for people to go forth and sin no more.

So we're used to dwelling, most of us, in a zone of relative obscurity, and not just with personal data. Within limits we could mess up - streak across campus, tear down the goalposts, get into a barroom punch-up and even if it made the local paper, our sins would be soon forgotten. That "permanent record" we were warned about has largely been a phantom.

Not any longer. The comfort of relative obscurity is giving way to the glare of immedi-

Elements can be saved. Governments can enact Web-access rules to public databases

ate accessibility

Colleges can decide that the young should he able to make fools of themselves with impunity, and withhold student chronicles from the Net.

But the news media exist to make things public. The real challenge is theirs, because the Internet fundamentally challenges some of the basics of what news is.

Take the assumption that news is about informing people right now.

No longer. Now news is indistinguishable from archive. With every deadline, news-rooms are building a globally accessible store of information that's here for keeps. It better be right. That means mistakes must be fixed zealously, no matter how long ago the original report ran, even if nobody complains. Those papers may be landfill, but the error is still hanging there in cyberspace, fresh as ever, wrong as can be.

Likewise, consider follow-through: How can you report an arrest without ever noting that the charges were dropped and the defendant acquitted? Routine neglect like that was tolerable only because we assumed that the matter would soon be forgotten. But nothing is forgotten that way now. On the Internet, that arrested person will remain under a cloud forever.

In the disturbing sci-fi movie "Strange Days," technology enables raw experience to be recorded. Not just pictures and sound, but sensation and emotion, can be played back. Our jilted hero keeps replaying — lit-erally reliving — the thrill of a doomed affair. The result is that he never gets over his ex. The memory never fades. There is a mercy to forgetfulness, just as

there is to averting our eyes. The Internet gives us a great deal, but it is destroying both options, and we have no ready way to restore those vanishing mercies.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University in Lexing-ton, Va. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald.

### Mallard Fillmore

Tim glad You're all prosperous, Vappy and well. note just Inscription #35: LIKE IT MUCH better.

By BRUCE TINSLEY



## Afghan special police seize 15 tons of opium

### Anti-narcotics task force makes one of largest raids as part of country-wide crackdown

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

KARIII. Afghanistan - A snecial anti-narcotics task force has raided drug laboratories in east-Afghanistan, seizing more than 15 tons of opium as part of President Hamid Karzai's crackdown on what he calls the country's biggest threat, officials said

That amount of opium, one of the largest confiscations in recent years, could have been refined into about 11/2 tons of heroin. U.N. surveys estimate Afghanistan accounted for three-quarters of the world's opium last year.

The raids took place Wednes day in Nangarhar province's Achin district, an Interior Ministry statement said, adding that Afghan Special Narcotics Force agents also destroyed 24 opium nresses that are used to refine the drug. They also seized three tons of chemicals used to process opium into heroin and five AK-47 assault rifles.

But no arrests were made as the labs' operators apparently fled iust before the operation began.

"This is a legitimate action ... to destroy the drug economy in Af-ghanistan." Interior Minister Ali Jalali said. "This operation is a proven example for other growers or traffickers that from now on, the government of Afghanistan is committed to destroying the drug

Another bust last week yielded nearly two tons of onium.

Karzai said in his Dec. 6 inaugu-

ral address that the country's booming drug economy - estimated to account for 60 percent of gross domestic product - will be the top priority in his fresh five-year term. He said it is linked to terrorism and called it a bigger threat than the Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents who mount al-

most daily attacks in the country-The United Nations has warned that the exploding narcotics industry is turning the impoverished country into a "narco-state."

"Without substantial progress in addressing the sources of insecurity, reconstruction efforts and the establishment of viable state institutions will continue to falter. and the economy may well be subsumed by the illicit drugs industry," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said earlier this month

Afghan and British officials preparing a crackdown on Afghani-stan's booming illegal narcotics industry have begun training a legal task force for special courts they hope will begin jailing heroin and opium kingpins within months.

Indonesia police officers take guard Wednesday during security checks at the entrance of the lakarta Hilton Hotel in Five foreign governments issued warnings, saving terrorists are ready to carry out attacks against Western

targets



### Hotels in Indonesia tighten security

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Hilton hotels in Indonesia tightened security Thursday at their three properties after authorities ordered a nationwide security crackdown following warnings from foreign governments that terrorists were preparing to launch attacks against Western

Australia's warning was unusually specific, saying it had "credible information" that terrorists could be targeting the Hilton Hotel chain in the country. The United States, Britain, New Zealand and Japan also issued warnings but did not mention specific targets.

At the Hilton in Jakarta, police

armed with automatic weapons stood guard next to Christmas trees hung with tinsel, searching hags and checking cars. Hotel offi cials said they had not seen a mass exodus of guests, but that some groups had canceled func-

Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants have launched three bloody bombings on Western targets in the world's most populous Muslim nation in the past three years.

Despite scores of arrests, local police and foreign governments have repeatedly warned more attacks were likely. Several countries warn their citizens not to travel to the country at all.

"We are doing our utmost to increase our vigilance," said Jakar-ta police spokesman Ciptono, who goes by a single name. "In light of the threat, the national police chief has ordered the Christmas and New Year's security operation, which was supposed to start Saturday, to begin immediately

"The U.S. Embassy reminds Americans that the terrorist threat in Indonesia continues and may increase over the holiday period," the U.S. Embassy said in an e-mail to expatriate Americans

Jakarta has complained that advisories are unfair in light of the global nature of terrorism, and that the panic they cause gives the terrorists a victory.
Hilton International Indone-

sia's chief operating officer Nizar Sungkar said Thursday he was "surprised" by Canberra's warn-ing, but said that security at all the chain's hotels had been tight-

### Governments must brace for future flu outbreak, WHO says

BY JONATHAN FOWLER The Associated Press

must brace for a future flu outbreak because one will strike inevitably, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

"Influenza pandemics are natural phenomenon, like earth-quakes," said Klaus Stohr, coordinator of the global flu pro-gram at the WHO.

Influenza is highly contagious and has killed millions over the past 100 years. It has traditional ly moved in cycles, and some scientists say a major outbreak is already overdue

The 1918-1919 Spanish Flu outbreak killed up to 40 million neonle around the world, many more than World War I. There also were major outbreaks in 1957-58 and 1968-1969 that killed more than a million people each. The most virulent

strains hit about every 30 years.
WHO has warned that 7 million could die in a new outbreak and that governments must do more to prepare -- and try to

cut the death toll.
"We're living on borrowed time," said Stohr. "But that gives us a chance to do things

we should perhaps have done be-Besides developing vaccines

to combat new, potentially deadly flu strains health authorities worldwide must boost surveillance, said WHO. The agency also called for better emergency plans that can be put in place fast if there is a pandemic with clear quarantine rules and screening of departing passengers at airports, for example.

"Vaccines are often men-tioned as the first line, but they are not," said Stohr.

The three flu pandemics that hit in the last century, and the ones that came before spread around the world before health officials had the chance to even identify the strain - let alone make and distribute vaccines to combat it.

Fears of a new global outbreak have been spurred by last year's enidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, which struck hardest in Asia. The flu-like disease killed near-800 people worldwide.

Worries also have been stoked by bird flu, which swept through farms across Asia this year, ravaging the poultry industry as more than 100 million birds were culled in an effort to stop the spread of the virus. The disease also jumped to hu-

mans, killing 12 people in Thailand and 20 in Vietnam. There is no concrete evidence yet of human-to-human transmission, but experts fear the virus could mutate to a form that could ing the next global pandemic.

WHO also wants govern ments to boost cooperation between medical and veterinary authorities because of fears that animal flu could jump the spe-

#### Friends watch as two great white sharks attack and kill 18-year-old surfer The Associated Press noon. South Australia state Sea of the victim or the sharks since not named told Seven Network plied, "None whatsoever,"

ADELAIDE, Australia - Two great white sharks attacked and killed a surfer while his friends watched in horror Thursday off a popular beach in the southern Australian city of Adelaide, authorities said.

The 18-year-old man had fallen from a surfboard being towed by a power boat when the sharks attacked off West Beach midafter-

Rescue Squadron spokesman Fraser Bell said One shark tore the victim in

half and the second shark took the remains, witnesses said

Two of the three 16-year-old hovs who were in the tow hoat witnessed the attack and received medical treatment for shock.

Police and state emergency services said there had been no sign the midafternoon attack despite extensive searches of the coast. Bell said the sharks, also

known as white pointers, were between 15 and 17 feet long. They attacked about 250 yards from a crowded beach

"He fell off the surfboard and the shark appeared and took him," Bell told reporters.

A woman on the beach who was

television the shark that led the attack "caught his left arm and took him around the hoat and then another shark has come in and they just took him to pieces.

The group of four friends, all from Adelaide, had been on the water for just 30 minutes before the attack

Asked if there were any chance the victim had survived. Bell re-

State police chief inspector David Lufty said beaches in the area would remain closed as the search continued for the killer

The tragedy is the second shark fatality in Australian waters within a week.

A 38-year-old man was killed by a shark while spearing fish on the Great Barrier Reef off northeast Australia on Saturday.



**Pentagon Car Sales** 

...GERMANY

### KAISERSLAUTERN

Kaiserstrasse 1 67661 Kaiserslautern Tel: 0631 351 900

### HEIDELBERG

Hebelstrasse 3 69115 Heidelberg Tel: 06221 144 911

#### MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3 68309 Mannheim Tel: 0621 724 6901

### WIESBADEN / MAINZ

Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel: 06134 567 800

...ITALY

### **AVIANO**

Via Pordenone 48D Aviano (PN) 33081 Tel: 0434 676 613/4

Viale Della Pace 254B Vicenza (VI) 36100 Tel: 0444 305 888

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f 80125 Naples Tel: 081 762 3868

#### SIGONELLA

c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1 95040 Motta S. Anastasia (CT) Tel: 095 713 0410

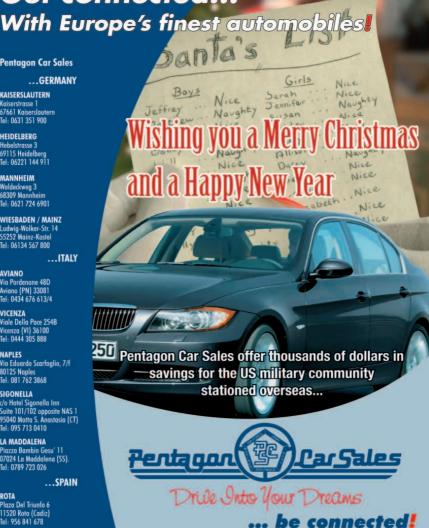
### LA MADDALENA

Piazza Bambin Gesu' 11 07024 La Maddalena (SS). Tel: 0789 723 026

...SPAIN

### ROTA

Plaza Del Triunfo 6 11520 Rota (Cadiz Tel: 956 841 678



PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

#### **Goats returned**

CORINTH — A man who tried to care for more than 300 goats and had some of the animals living in his house with him has had animals that were seized from him returned and won permission to move them out of state.

Chris Weathersbee,

64, pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and two other charges as

part of a plea bargain that called for the return of the seized goats and the removal of his herd to eastern Kentucky.

Weathersbee said he has hired a livestock trucking company and plans to leave soon for a Kentucky farm, where he expects the animals to be used on a vegetation-management project.

#### Homeless celebration

SAN ANTONIO — Central Texas' homeless and needy are not forgotten for the holidays, with thousands treated to food and gifts under an Interstate 35 bridge.

The event, for the second time in

its 10-year history, included a brief tribute to homeless people in San Antonio who died during the year. Organized by the San Antonio Area Homeless Action Coalition

Organized by the San Antonio Area Homeless Action Coalition and the city's Community Initiative Department, the "Christmas Under the Bridge" attracted an estimated 2,000 people, including about 200 volunteers, said Maria Ramirez, a program manager with the city's community action division.

#### Treadmill world record

VA ARLINGTON — Michael Wardian knew he was going places, even if only on the treadmill.

The local runner beat a rather

unusual world record by more than seven minutes, running a 26.2-mile marathon on the exercise machine.

ance out in the open, but Wardian
— who qualified for the Olympic
trials this year — set a time of
2:23:58. The previous record was
2:31:04, according to "The Book of
Alternative Records."

### **Naughty business**

CA WEST COVINA — Always wanted to leave a lump of coal in some Scrooge's Christmas stocking? Then Alec Nystrom has a deal for you.

The 11-year-old boy is selling lumps of coal for 50 cents each in front of his West Covina home. So far, he says, he's raked in about \$100.

Alec out the idea after his father.

Alec got the idea after his father, Roy, told him how his parents always warned him he'd receive a lump in his Christmas stocking if he wasn't good.

Alec's father is an artist who often uses coal in his work, so the boy had a ready supply to sell. Alec said he hopes to sell enough

lumps of coal this holiday season to buy a dirt bike.

#### Tree thief

MO ST. LOUIS — Organizers of a Christmas tree sale supporting youth hockey programs figured that a tree or two might get swiped from their outdoor lot after-hours.

### AMERICAN ROUNDUP

What they hadn't counted on was someone stealing more than 90 Christmas trees or the random acts of kindness that followed. Others in the area have stepped forward, dropping off additional

trees or donating money since last weekend's theft.

Tire tracks on a nearby field were the only clue about how the

trees, worth about \$3,000, were taken.

Proceeds from the Christmas tree sale were supposed to pay for improvements at a community ice

### Official not apologizing

rink, she said.

RENO — State Controller Kathy Augustine remains unapologetic after becoming the only elected official in Nevada history to be impeached and convicted of malfeasance in office. She returned to the Capitol to complete remaining two years. She told the Reno Gazette-Journal that she's seger to resume her political career and won't rule out a congressional campaign in 2006. She admitted violating state ethics laws and was fined \$15,000.

### Judge offered on eBay

NY NEW YORK — A Manhattan housing court judge, whose picture was posted in an advertisement on eBay as putting



Tubular Christmas

George Wenderoth, of Wayne, N.J., front, this year's oldest tuba player at 82 years old, plays along with more than 400 tuba players from assors the United States in the 31st annual "Merry Tuba Christmas" performance in New York's Rockefeller Center. him up for sale, said he did not find the

posting fumy.
The ad for Judge Jerald R. Klein, accusing
him of miscarrying justice, depicted him sitting
in the courtroom, smiling.
The judge said he was
"outraged" by the posting,
which eBay took down within
about 90 minutes of finding out
about it

The ad, titled "Judge for Sale," was posted by Janet Schoenberg, the disgruntled litigant in a landlord-tenant dispute in New York City Civil Court who said Klein was mishandling the case and that she exhausted other ways of drawing attention to her

She maintained, however, that she meant the ad as a joke. "I didn't expect anybody to actually bid on this," she said. "It was satire, it was parody."

After four days, the best offer for the judge was \$127.50.

### Senator out of race

PHOENIX — State Senate
President Ken Bennett asys
he won't run for governor in 2006.
Bennett, a Republican, said he's
shelving his earlier consideration
of a run for the office now held by
Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat At least two other prominent
Republicans have said they may
run for governor.

#### Inmates' calories cut

GA ATLANTA — The state Decutting the average number of calories female prisoners may consume each day by about 20 personal control of the property of the control of t

### Persuading constituents

OH Janc Campbell is trying to sell Ohio voters on casing gambling after they've already rejected two such referendums. Campbell is pitching a plan that would allow cities to decide whether to build a casino, rather than relying on a yes or no vote to legalize gambling in Ohio. Supporters must gather more than 330,000 signatures from registered voters to place the issue on the November 2005 ballot.

#### Mail bomb sentence

PA ERIE — A man was sentenced to five years in federal prison for mailing a bomb made out of matches, gunpowder and a mousetrap to a man dating his ex-girlfriend.

Authorities said no one was injured by the bomb sent by Robert Reichard, 44, of Edinboro. The man who received it in November 2003 took it to state police and a bomb squad blew it apart with a water cannon.

Investigators linked Reichard to the package partly because a letter accompanying it contained the same misspelling — "no" instead of "know" — as letters and threatening e-mails he had previously sent to his former girlfriend and her new boyfriend.



Under mom's watchful eye A Siberian tiger named Sinda, left, and one of her cubs sit behind a tree at the Louisville Zoo in Louisville, Ky. It was the first day the cubs were available for public viewing.



Just hanging out carlos Sandoval sits on top of a football goal post as the sun sets in Hyrum, Utah. Sandoval said that he climbed the goal post while waiting to meet some



Winter fun Chris Perham, 18, left, and Andrey Melkonyan, 19, both students at Lees-McRae College, ride their makeshift sled down a snow-covered hill on the campus in Banner Elk, N.C.



Pink lady engineers

Team coach Dave McNamara works in the pit area on a robot with the
all-girls team A.F.A. Engineers from Amherst Middle School, in brightly
colored wigs, during the New Hampshire state finals of the FIRST LEGO League held at Nashua High School
North in Nashua. N.H.



Holiday march
Children dressed in traditional costume march in the procession leading to Mass
during the Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Robeson County fairgrounds near

#### Prenatal help on way

VA RICHMOND — Virginia is among five states awarded federal grants to help doctors and nurses identify women who suffer depression while pregnant and after giving birth.

Perinatal depression "is something women try to hide," said Mary Zoller, a policy analyst for the state Department of Health's Division of Women's and Infants' Health. "They are ashamed of it.

"You have this baby, and it is supposed to be a wonderful thing, but they are not feeling good about it. Women may be reluctant to ask for help."

Virginia will use its \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration to develop a Web-based training tool on perinatal depression.

This type of depression has received attention in recent years because of high-profile cases in which mothers killed their young children. In 2001, Andrea Yates of Texas drowned her five children in a bathub and her attorney argued she suffered from postpartum psychosis.

### Dangerous stockpile

PA ERIE — An alleged militia leader who authorities claimed built a bunker on his land and stockpiled weapons for a showdown with federal agents was sen-

tenced to nearly 3 years in prison.
George Bilunka, 60, pleaded
guilty in August to possessing unregistered firearms — two homemade land mines, a modified rifle
and a homemade machine gun.

He also acknowledged that he and another alleged militia leader sold a copy of a Sten gum — a British-made World War II 9 mm machine gum — to an undercover federal agent for \$300.

#### Jesus statue vandalized

TN KNOXVILLE — A marble statue of the infant Jesus and his mother that stands in front of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville was vandalized, authorities said.

Someone cut off the baby's head and arms and doused the stumps in red paint. The vandal or vandals also threw the baby's head through a glass door, scrawled an upside-down cross on Mary's robe and covered her face with paint.

"In this season, when we're getting ready for the birth of Christ, to have these two images defaced and destroyed like this is disturbing," said the Rev. Vann Johnston, a priest in the diocese.

### Arrest shocking

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Hans Aaland has for years been Livermore's living oddity — riding a 12-foot-tall unicycle in a jester hat, passing out protest leaflets, addressing the City Council on the "beauty of the community," and spouting revelations from God.

The 46-year-old man had a few run-ins with the law as well, but some people who know him say they were shocked nonetheless by his arrest on suspicion of killing his father.

Police say Aaland smothered his father, Kristian Aaland, as the father slept in the bedroom of the home he shared with his son and wife. Hans Aaland told his mother

what he had done, left a confession note full of biblical quotations and walked away from the home, police said

Kristian Aaland, 80, an eccentric former scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who buried a boxcar in his front yard as a bomb shelter during the Cold War, was found dead after his wife called for help, said police Set Jim Suibielski.

#### Two injured by boulder

KAPOLEI — Two people were injured when a boulder from a quarry rolled down a hillside and collided with their sport utility vehicle on the H-1 freeway in West Oahu.

The boulder, measuring five feet across, landed in the westbound lanes of the freeway near the Makakilo offramp. Grace Pacific Corp. said the boul-

der was accidentally dislodged by a bulldozer widening a berm at its Makakilo quarry site.

The man and woman in the SUV suffered leg injuries, according to Capt. Kenison Tejada, a Honolulu Fire Department spokesman.

They were taken to The Queen's Medical Center in serious condition, but were later upgraded to fair condition.

#### Bear chokes to death

ABILENE — One of the two American black bears at the Abilene Zoo died after apparently choking on a piece of meat.

Boo Boo's body was found after the bears were fed. Once the second bear, Teddy, 13, was moved, the zoo staff made a quick examination and confirmed that Boo Boo, 9, had died. Dr. Clay Hilton, the zoo's consult-

ing veterinarian, said Boo Boo must have eaten quickly and regurgitated a large, unchewed piece of meat that lodged in his windpipe.

Boo Boo was known for his never-ending quest for snacks and his cool dips in a pond.

### Slaughter violations

NC RALEIGH — State agriculture officials say they have found two major butchering operations this year where animals were slaughtered outdoors, either by the landowner or by his customers, and sold. Both those cases will be criminal-

ly prosecuted, at least one as a felony, a rare event for the Department of Agriculture. Officials say they had one similar case in each of the two previous years, and both were handled with fines.

State inspectors say immigrants, many of whom don't know about state laws regulating food, are pushing the demand for illegal butchering.

### **Bed donations**

MINNETONKA — The Radisson Hotel chain is donating its old beds as it installs 90,000 new ones throughout its system in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. The beds, mostly one and two years old, will be donated to nonprofit agencies that will take at least 200. Nearly for. The company is switching to the new beds over the next two years.

Stories and photos from wire services

### **FACES**

#### Bracco follows 'Sopranos' pipeline

Lorraine Bracco will be the next star of "The Sopranos" to moonlight on a "Law & Order" drama

Bracco, who plays mobster Tony Soprano's psychiatrist on the HBO show, has been cast as an ambitious lawer on the upcoming "Law & Order:



prano relative, is appearing in the final four episodes of "Law & Order" this season, while Robert Iler, who plays Tony Soprano's son, was on 'Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" last year

Edie Falco played a defense lawyer on "Law & Order" before star-Bracco ring in "The Sopranos

"Law & Order: Trial by Jury," the fourth in the "Law & Order" franchise, stars Bebe Neuwirth and Jerry Orbach.

Bracco's episode will film in January; the series will debut in early 2005, but an air date has yet to be announced

### Dude looks like a granddad

Steven Tyler is now, gasp, a grandfather. Liv Tyler, daughter of the Aerosmith lead singer and

model Bebe Buell, gave birth to a son in Manhattan on

Tuesday, Us Weekly magazine reported.

"They are both doing great," Tyler's publicist, Stephen
Huvane, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. He said the baby hadn't yet been named

The 27-year-old actress is married to Royston Langdon of the band Spacehog. The two tied the knot in March 2003

Tyler played the elf princess Arwen in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Her screen credits also include "Jersey Girl" and "Armageddon."

#### Houston has an auto accident

Singer Whitney Houston rear-ended an Alpharetta Ga., city bus in with her sports car,

but no one was hurt, police said. The accident happened Wednesday afternoon as Houston was making a left turn, said Sgt. Chris Lager-

The bus sustained minor damage. The bumper of Houston's Porsche was mangled but the singer was not injured.

She was given a citation for failure to vield a misdemeanor

Houston lives with her husband, R&B singer Bobby Brown, near the suburb of Alpharetta, about 25 miles north of Atlanta.

### Kournikova quite possibly married

Is the knot really tied this time? Anna Kournikova and Enrique Iglesias were married in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a few weeks ago, Us Weekly magazine reports.

"Everything is awesome. We are married," the magazine quotes Kournikova as saying at a charity tennis event in Florida on Sunday.

Mollenkamp, Kournikova's publicist, refused Tuesday to confirm or deny the Us Weekly story, saying, "We never comment on her personal life." Iglesias' representative, Stacy Boniello, also had no com-

Court officials in charge of registering marriages in Puerto Vallarta and neighboring Nuevo Vallarta said they had no record of such a wedding. But the former tennis pro and the Latin pop star could have had a religious wedding, which would not be legally recognized in Mexico.

Kournikova, 23, is no stranger to wedding drama. There have been nureports in the past few months that she and Iglesias, 29, already were married. And she was

briefly married to Russian hockey player Sergei Fedorov in 2001, though at the time she denied it.



Kournikova



Members of the music group Destiny's Child pose at the Rhigha Royal Hotel in New York last month. From left are

## **Destiny's calling**

### Pop trio still together after taking time off for solo work

44 People kept saying, 'They ain't

together.' We we're like, 'Jerk,

uou just saw us.'

Michelle Williams

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY The Associated Press

NEW YORK ooking back at breakups of some of the great pop groups, the beginning of the end can often be traced to two words: "solo project."

So when Beyonce — already the magnet of Destiny's hild — catapulted to superstardom last year with her triple-platinum, Grammy-winning solo debut, "Dangerously In Love," many predicted the demise of the best-selling girl group.

The trio is happy to prove the skeptics wrong. Though Beyonce's solo hits are still lingering on the charts and radio, Destiny's Child — Beyonce, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams - have re

united for "Destiny Fulfilled," their first album in three years. With their new hit single, the sexy dance track "Lose My Breath," the women are picking up where they left off: on top of the charts.

"It feels wonderful being back. I know one thing that we

really love is just the camaraderie all over again," says Row-land, as she and her bandmates sprawl on oversized chairs in a hotel suite during a day of interviews and photo shoots. While the album is being billed as a reunion, the women say they never stopped working as a unit — even during Bece's breakout ye

"People said that they broke up, but we appeared at the BET Awards together! Destiny's Child still had appearance es together that we did, and people kept saying, 'They ain't together.' We we're like, 'Jerk, you just saw us,' " says Will-iams, as the group dissolves in laughter.

"Well, if we broke up, we were still friends!" Friendship aside, critics are still pondering why the group decided to regroup, given the diverging interests of

Rowland has had moderate success with acting and her own solo debut, 2002's "Simply Deep"; Williams released two gospel albums and starred in Broadway's "Aida."

So why release another Destiny's Child album? "Well, why not?" retorts Beyonce — pleasant, but still peeved at the suggestion. "I mean, Destiny's Child has sold millions of records, had so much success, and it goes far beyond the success we had as a group. We're friends, and we made a commitment to each other. We made a commitment to our fans. And we were all looking forward to it."

There's no denying Destiny's Child's success. Since their 1997 debut, they became one of the best-selling girl groups of all time, racking up numerous hits, including "Say My Name," "Independent Women (Part II)" and "Bootylicious."

What's most clear now is their development into young women. On "Destiny Fulfilled," their earlier sexy-but-innocent tone has disappeared. The first single talks about a guy that can't keep up in bed, and other songs have a sexubut not graphic, tone.

"It touches on a more sensual side of Destiny's Child be-cause we never talked about that. Now that we're older, "I think they're more mature now." says Beyonce.

kins, who produced "Lose My Breath" along with some of their earlier material. "They feel like they can talk about

stuff that before they were too young to talk about. I think that's the place that they're at. It's not raunchy, but sexy."
Besides sex, there's also an emphasis this time around on

group parity. Beyonce is no longer the focal point visually she's rarely photographed now in the middle, like the old days. And while Beyonce's reputation as an emerging musical wunderkind continues — she was a writer-produc-er not only on her own album, but 2001's "Survivor" she's brags that comrades are branching out musically as

"Now, they're so much more comfortable, and they're not afraid to hum the melody that it's in their head, or say the lyrics or whatever is coming in their head, which be-fore they were way more shy about it," says Beyonce, beaming like a mother hen. "They've just blossomed. It's almost like different people. It took us kind of being away from each other and having to really focus on ourselves individually to grow

What is clear is the trio's strong friendship. Even if Beyonce's star has shone brightest, starring in several movies and dating rap superstar Jay-Z, one would be hard-pressed to detect any jealousy or dissension. Even Jerkins was struck by their closeness.

T've worked with so many different artists, "[and] it just shows — their togetherness, their friendli-ness. As much as Beyonce is a superstar, it's still a group."



## FCC OKs Internet access Failed brakes halt on commercial airplanes

### Research will determine future of cell phones on jets

By GENARO C. ARMAS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Federal regulators voted Wednesday to give airline passengers high-speed In-ternet connections while they fly.

The unanimous vote by the Federal Communica-

tions Commission means air travelers could be surf-

ing the Web by 2006.

"If there is a theme for this meeting, it is that we want [new technologies] on the land, in the air, and on the sea" FCC Chairman Michael Powell said. "We are pushing the frontiers in order to bring the information age to all corners of the world."

The FCC also voted to solicit comments from the public about ending the ban on in-flight use of cell phones. Among the issues to consider are whether pasengers want to be surrounded by phone conversa-

"The ability to communicate is a vital one, but good cell phone etiquette is also essential," Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said. "Our job is to see if this is possible and then let consumers work out the eti-

quette. David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, a passenger advocacy group, said allowing Internet access would "make business travelers more efficient and while away the time for a lot of other pas-

sengers. This is all the wave of the future here. Currently, the only way passengers on domestic flights can communicate with the ground is through phones usually built into the seat backs. That service isn't very popular: It costs far more than conventional or cell phones - about \$3.99 a minute - and the reception often is poor.

Of the three companies that initially offered that ser-

Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation

-.04 SPDR -1.08 SemiHTr -.17 DIIA Dian +.59 iShlapan +.27 SP Engy +.86 iShRs200

iShJapan SP Engy iShRs2000 WheatR g

254.11 6,171.85 Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite Amex Index

1.118.28

1,750.82 1,060.72 548.29 Nasdaq Composite S&P 500 S&P MidCap

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

689180 638145

515.90 Russell 2000 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire

3.60 24.02 3.52 28.32 22.11 30.48 19.38 46.56

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

2,164.63 1,205.29

Name Vol (00)

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

Амех

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

327.97 7,159.65 1,415.78

2,162.55 +2.71

Last Chg

33.34 106.85 10.25 36.56 129.34 3.33 15.99

+.09 -.01 +.11 +.05 +.27 +1.07 +.02 -.40 449674 203818 92081 68584 53078 52072 43840 32323

+22.88 +11.17 +20.64 +27.32

+.79 +16.47 +.32 +10.03

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 or )

+24.71

-125 -125 -14 -10 +10 +06 +06

vice on commercial jets, only Verizon Airfone remains. It has phones on about 1,500 jets.

The FCC approved a measure to restructure how frequencies for such "air-to-ground" services are used and allow the airlines to offer wireless

high-sneed Internet connections Left undecided was the issue of how many compa nies the FCC would allow, through an auction, to offer such services. Verizon Airfone maintains that letting one company handle the service would ensure the best quality. FCC officials said the auction would take

place within a year. Once plans are completed and planes outfitted with the equipment, high-speed Internet access might be found on commercial domestic flights by 2006, said Jack Blumenstein, chairman and CEO of Louisville

Colo.-based AirCell. The time line on when air travelers would be able to start using cell phones in flight is murkier, in part because both the FCC and the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration ban the practice The FCC took up the issue Wednesday in an effort to start public discussion, and commissioners might eventually relax the rules or lift the ban entirely. Of most concern to FCC officials is how using a cell phone in an airplane would interfere with cell phone

use on the ground. The FAA concern is over whether airborne cell phone could interfere with a plane's navigation and electrical systems, agency spokeswoman Laura Brown said. The technology used on seat-back phones and being considered for use for wireless Internet hookups causes no such interference.

The FAA has commissioned a private, indepen firm to study the issue. Results aren't due until 2006. The FAA will not make its decision on cell phone use until after the study is completed. Brown said.

## confidence in car

You guys really make me laugh. So now you know that one other person is out there laughing with you! I have a 2003 Windstar with about 16K miles. Last Saturday, my wife took my car to watch the Mummers parade in North Wildwood, N.J. As she approached a stop sign, the brakes failed her. The pedal went to the floor. She was not going very fast and was able to bring the car to a stop without

kept it for a day), and the mechan-

ic said that the brakes were OK.

that he made an adjustment in

the hydraulics. Tom and Ray,

brakes. Any suggestions? Should

I expect failure again? Should I

trade it in? Could it be a bad mas-

ter cylinder or anti-lock-brake

system? How can I ever have con-

TOM: You can't, Gene. At least

not until somebody gives you a

credible explanation for why they

RAY: There is no "adjustment"

you can make to the hydraulics.

so he was just trying to get rid of

ble explanations for what hap-pened. The most likely is that

your wife accidentally drove all

the way to the Mummers parade

with the parking brake applied -

or, more likely, partially applied

That would mean that the brakes

were being applied the whole

though her foot wasn't on the brake pedal. That overheated the

brakes, which boiled the brake

fluid, which led to the brake fail-

was driving, even

TOM: I can think of a few possi-

you with that one.

time she

failed. No one has done that yet.

— Gene

fidence in the brakes again?

now I have lost confidence in th

hitting any-thing. She immediately turned the car off, and

### **Click and Clack**

can easily do in an unfamilthe brakes returned (the nedal reiar vehicle In fact I recently drove halfway to Montreal with turned to its normal position and the brakes worked). The brakes the parking brake partially aphave been working normally ever since. I checked under the plied in one of our brand-new test cars. I won't mention whose car it hood, saw no leaks, and the maswas, because I don't want ter-cylinder reservoir was full. Chrysler on our case again! The brake pads look good. We TOM: A related cause of inter took it to a Ford dealership (they

mittent brake failure is a faulty power-brake booster. That cre-ates a situation similar to leaving the parking brake on It fails to release the brakes entirely. So, it also causes brake failure by overheating the brake fluid. If that's the case, it could happen again. RAY: If it's not either of those,

the engine and let things cool down, the brakes returned to nor-

mal. And we would assume that

after that, she released the park

TOM: How do you prove that's

what happened? I guess you have

to put her under the klieg lights

RAY: Actually, you might do better just asking her whether it's

possible. You said it was your car

she was driv-

ing, and this

is something

any person

and interrogate her.

ing brake.

then it's probably a bad master cylinder, which would need to be replaced.

TOM: So, unless your wife fesses up to perhaps having seen the red "parking brake" light on when she was driving that day, take the Windstar back to the dealer, talk to the manager of the service department and tell him that you need a more definitive explanation before you can confi dently drive this van any more.

RAY: Ask him to keep it and drive it home for a few days. Tell him to take his family out in it and see if he can get the problem to recur. If you notice a sudden deer-in-the-headlights look when you make this suggestion, you'll know you've made your point. Good luck, Gene.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspa-per, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features

### Bahrain (Dinar) . British pound ..... Canada (Dollar) Denmark (Krone Egypt (Pound) .. ong Kong (Dollar)

**EXCHANGE RATES** 

Iceland (Krona)61.73
Israel (Shekel)4.3326
Japan (Yen)104.23
Kuwait (Dinar)
Norway (Krone) 5.79
Philippines (Peso)56.28
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.59
Singapore (Dollar)1.6385
South Korea (Won)1.062.80
Switzerland (Franc)1.08
Thailand (Baht)39.46
Turkey (Lira)1.404,500,00
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
For nonlocal currency exchange rates
(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
nv), check with your local military bank-
ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-
bank rates provided for reference when
buying currency. All figures are foreign
ouymy currency. An figures are foreign

### British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is PRECIOUS METALS

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5
Discount rate3	ŝ.
Federal funds market rate2	Ž.
3-month bill2	Ž.
30-year bond4	
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank	
America	

## ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

### Turning on the heat

By NANCY DUNNAN

The cost of heating fuel is going up again this winter - by more than 25 percent, according to some experts.

Most utility companies publish energy savings suggestions - check with yours by calling the consumer hot line. Others offer cash to customers who install efficiency equipment and weather stripping.

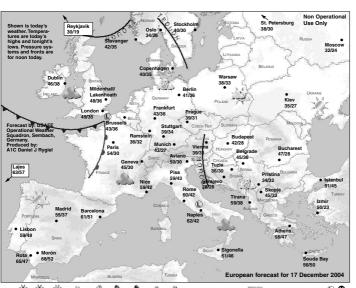
For a list of programs, check out the Web site of The Edison Electric Institute, the electric utilities trade group, at:

Financial advisor economist and Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$50 to \$5,000." She writes a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com

www.eei.org/wiseuse.

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg
Alliant Technosystem		17	66.11	50	+14.5
Armor Holdings		31	47.55	+.76	+80.7
Boeing	1.00	15	52,40	24	+24.3
Computer Sciences		19	56.80	37	+28.4
Engineered Sup Sys	.04	22	58.53	+1.10	+6.3
General Dynamics	1.44	18	106.00	-1.09	+17.3
General Electric	.88	24	37.39	+.01	+20.7
Halliburton	.50		40.18	+.61	+54.5
Harris Corp.	.48	29	62.91	-1.23	+65.8
Allied Signal	.83	22	36.01	39	+7.7
L-3 Communications	.40	22	74.50	50	+45.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	59.38	33	+15.5
NorthroG s	.92	20	57.02	+.07	+19.3
Raytheon	.80	44	39.08	52	+30.1
Rockwell Intl.	.66	22	47.78	+1.01	+34.2
Segua Corp.		37	62.02	+1.23	+26.6
Texas Instruments	.10	24	24,42	+.08	-16.9
Textron Inc.	1.40	32	73.70	05	+29.2

Name	NAV	Chg.	%Ri
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	38.54	+.02	+9
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	55.76	+.18	
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	29.34		+10
Fidelity Sparfan: Eqldx	42.61	+.09	+10
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p	19.27	+.07	+10
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	16.30	+.04	+5
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	33.82	+.18	
AIM Investments A: Const p	22.72	+.02	+5
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.23	+.02	+4
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	34.43	+.23	+10
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	30.45	+.14	+6
Fidelity Advisor T: Eqin Y	28.60	+.09	
Scudder Funds S: GroineS	21.92	+.04	+9
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	8.30	+.08	+11
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.98	+.03	+7
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.82	+.02	+1
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl	28.30	+.12	+8
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	43.49	+.38	+13
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	17.28	+.12	+5
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	15.81	+.09	+5
Scudder Funds S: Income S	13.03	+.03	+5
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.34	+.01	+3
Scudder Funds S: Devel Putnam Funds A: GIGvA p	19.31	+.04	+2



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### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the 40s, Saturday lows in the 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s, Saturday lows in the mid to upper 30s

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy skies with morning freezing rain and fog with isolated light snow. Highs in the upper 20s to upper 30s, Saturday lows in upper 20s to low 30s.

France: Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 50s, Saturday lows in the low 30s

Northern Germany: Cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the low 40s, Saturday lows in the upper

Southern Germany: Cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to low 40s, Saturday lows in the

upper 20s to low 30s. Hungary: Partly cloudy skies . Highs in the low 40s, Saturday lows in the

unner 20s Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with light fog. Highs in the low 50s, Saturday lows in the low

Southern Italy: Cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the low 60s, Saturday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy skies with morning fog and afternoon freezing rain. Highs in the low 30s, Saturday lows in the low 30s.

Norway: Cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the low 30s to low 40s, Saturday lows in the upper 20s

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 50s to upper 60s, Saturday lows in the upper 30s to low 50s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy skies Highs in the low 30s in the northern regions to low 50s in the southern regions, Saturday lows in the upper 20s on the western coast to mid 40s on the southeastern coast.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

page at: https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil



Sunrise (Ba Sunrise (Fr Sunset (Ba Sunset (Fra	ankfurt) ahdad)	7:01am 8:19am 4:58pm 4:24pm	7:01am 8:20am 4:59pm 4:25pm					
New moon 10 Jan	First qtr. 18 Dec	Full moon 26 Dec	Last qtr. 3 Jan					

### TODAY'S STATESIDE

Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Clouds

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### THE UNITED STATES TODAY

**MIDEAST** 

75/51

85/55

Mazar-e-Sharif

73/37

Zahedar

71/23



Scheduled to ETS or PCS Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS STRIPES. Your Hometown Newspaper

### Horoscope

cal winter solstice, and the sparkling qualities of the season are starting to flair. Venus has danced into Sagittarius, igniting **Holiday Mathis** wonder in the young and desire in the more mature There's so much to want this time of year. Mercury retrograde helps with the "make your list and check it

#### twice" part TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 17). Your year ahead is filled with romance, easy communica tion and a firm footing at home. Those feeling the holiday pinch in their wallets this winter will get a much welcome sense of financial stability just in time for tax season. Shopping sprees in May and August are fun upgrades to your lifestyle - as long as you plan ahead for them! Your lucky numbers are: 16, 17, 30, 45, and 22

### ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Tensions arise when your priorities don't match those of your loved ones. The best time for a family talk is over dinner. Topics that are tough to swallow go down easier with something sweet. Stressed spelled backward is desserts!

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Add beauty and balance to your home through the judicious use of color, texture and placement. Books on the art of feng shui can help you harmonize your living space and keep positive energy flowing in the right direction.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The future is an infinite succession

of nows. Avoid fuzzy thinking and self-deception. Your clear vision today will help build a solid founda tion for tomorrow. Quiet your mind to get to the center of what's real.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A financial situation that's been quietly simmering in the background may become more worrisome, but only temporarily. Allow your intuition to guide you to an answer.

Supportive stars help you achieve a more grounded reality.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reassess your situation. You may realize you need to throw out the old rulebook and play a whole new game. If you haven't done so already, now is perfect for adjusting your boundaries and setting goals for the coming

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A

sparkling opportunity emerges, allowing you to indulge the creative side of yourself, which you've been suppressing for far too long. You like a challenge, but why make things unnecessarily difficult? Take yes for an

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Beautiful

air signs like you are extra sensitive to sound waves. You can lift yourself out of a funk by creating good vibrations Listen to some uplifting music or birds flying south for the winter.

answer

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're being pulled by subtle yet

opposing forces. A nurturing, feminine influence quietly urges you to bring something to fruition, while a disruptive, masculine influence helps you make sure your strategy is solid.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your head and your heart are likely to be in conflict. Your heart will win, so you may as well give in to it! If you've been holding back on telling someone you care, the planets are on your side.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Mother's advice turns out to be right! You are in prime position to benefit greatly through the wise counsel of a female family member or perhaps the clan patriarch. Light a candle in memory of your ancestors.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel as though a woman in your life is trying to pick a fight with you,

perhaps over an issue concerning money or prestige. Take the high ground - accept that she still loves you, and forgive her moods.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Make a conscious effort to tune in to

your loved one. You'll be rewarded with romance, compassion and more than a little bit of magic. Keep some watercolors and a brush on hand, too - your cup brims with creative inspiration.

Creators Syndicate

Beetle Bailer

### Peanuts

















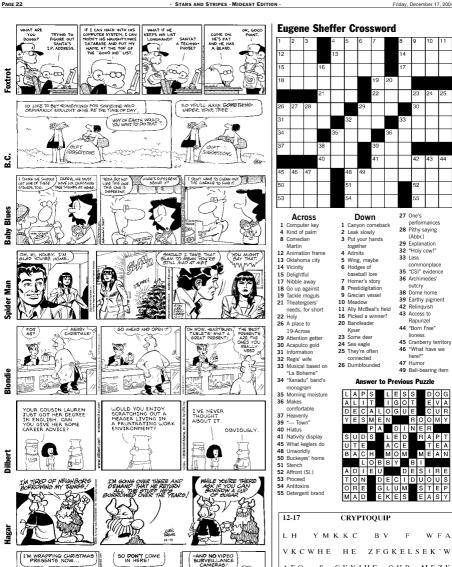












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AFO. S CKYJHE OHB MFZK

WFO "LFJK MKFCL!' Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WORDS OF WOE FROM A FAILING DIETER MIGHT BE "A WAIST IS A

TERRIBLE THING TO MIND. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

### **Press charges against Fiancee**

Dear Abby: My fiancee, "Monique," has put me into financial ruin. It's all because of this girl she has been hanging around with, "Tracy." Monique's friends have warned her to stay away from Tracy because she's bad news

Abby, the two of them have been kiting money Monique has also forged my name on my own checks and sold my personal items - things left to me by my grandparents. For years, people have urged me to press

Monique and I have two children, 3 and 2. I spoke to a lawyer and I will have no problem getting full custody

Monique is on one year's probation and has to pay restitution because she stole from her employer. She is American; we live in Canada. With all the stuff that's happening, Monique

may have to leave the country Monique's parents have told me I should press charges.

Monique wasn't like this until she met Tracy. Should I press ould I just charges, or she goodbye, take the kids and go my way? A mutual friend says Moue told her that if I do that, she will forget the kids, and find a new guy and have kids with him - Stressed Out

in Canada Dear Abb Dear Stressed Out:

I'm glad you wrote and I'm pleased to help end your ambivalence. Listen to your common sense as well as to what Monique's par ents are urging you to do

Protect vourself and the kids. Press charges. Tracy is not responsi ble for your fiancee's

behavior. Your fiances appears to have no conscience. Jail time won't help her mend her ways, but it will slow her down.

Dear Abby: Last week, we invited a couple for dinner this week. Two days before the party,

I called to confirm the time and

they said they'd be here.
On the evening of the dinner, they showed up two hours late without even a phone call. They said the husband had to work late. Neither of them offered an apology. We had tried twice to contact them before we finally decided to go ahead and eat. They seemed offended that we

Were we wrong to assume they weren't coming? If you haven't heard otherwise, how long should you wait for guests

before eating without them?

— Tired of Waiting in Virginia Dear Tired of Waiting: Yo were not wrong to assume that your guests were no-shows and to have eaten dinner. That they failed to call and inform you that they had been delayed was rude Thirty minutes is long enough to wait for tardy guests — or less if

there's danger the meal will be Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/Universal Press Syndicate

overcooked

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion You're falling behind, Ms. Vickers

SHE ACCOM

HER

PLISHED AT

FULL-TIME JOB.

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words. KANET



YOTHER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Yesterday's

Jumbles: NOOSE SUBLY JARGON LINEOLD A tournament golfer tries to avoid this -Answer THE "FORE" GROUND

### **Family Circus**



"Santa can speak any language in the world."

### Visions should not be dismissed

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Worried Grandma," whose 12-year-old grandson, "Zach," was having vi sions. Your immediate advice was for the boy to be hustled off to a neurologist. You have done this child a disservice by your knee-ierk assumption that he has some type of mental problem

There is another possibility that should not be overlooked: The boy may be psychic. Please take a look at the larger nicture, and acknowledge the fact that there are those who have abilities far beyond yours and mine.

### . — Paranormal Advocate

Dear Advocate: Many readers were confused that we recommended a neurologist, so let's clear that up. Visions such as those described by the grandmother could signal that the boy has a brain tumor or other neurological disorder. We felt it was necessary to rule out serious medical concerns, and that is



why a neurologist was the appropriate referral. We heard from many readers who were convinced the boy's visions should be celebrated. Read on:

#### From California: My ESP started at 1 year of age, and it has been 50-plus years of

dealing with others biased attitudes. If you feel the urge to refer this family to a doctor, at least refer them to a paransychologist

Washington: As a child, I saw stacked translucent colored cubes

When I was older, I used to see a long-haired female folk singer strumming her guitar. I discovered these were "auras" before my panic attacks. I've been on an anti-anxiety anti-depressant for years now with excellent results

Madison, Wis.: Zach's visions could be past life regression. It is wonderful this teen was so intuitive and spiritual that he could remember a previous life without being regressed or hypnotized.

Bainbridge, N.Y.: Zach may have some incredible gifts that he should be taught to cherish. He should be put in touch with a religious community in which he could explore what

East Coast: When I moved into my new home. I had visions of an old woman with a skinny cat. It happened whenever I washed the dishes. I consulted a spiritual medium who told me I was seeing the former owner of the home. Ten years later, I met someone who knew the owner and said she had a cat and loved

her kitchen Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA \$0045. Creators Syndicate

GRAFFIT Dennis 1







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### **SCOREBOARD**

### AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.-NFL: NFL's Greatest Games, 1980 Divisional playoffs, Dallas at At-lanta. anta. AFN-Radio. 2 a.m.-NBA: Cleveland at De-AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m.-NBA: Cleveland at Detroit."

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-College basketball:
Dhio St. at Texas Tech.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.-NBA: L.A. Lakers at arramento.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball:
blio St. at Texas Tech (dld).

AFN-Sports, noon-NBA: Cleveland at Deroit (dld). **AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**-NBA: L.A. Lakers at Sac-amento (dld)

#### Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.-College football: NCAA Div. I-AA championship game, James Madison vs. Montana. AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-NBA: Denver at Miami. AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.-NBA: L.A. Clippers at Minnesota.

AFN-Pacific, 4:30 a.m.-NBA: Washington at skers. •Snorts 4:30 a m .NRA: Dhooniy at So. attie.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College football: NCAA
Div. I-AA championship game, James Madison vs. Montana (did).
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.-NBA: Phoenix at Seattle OIG). AFN-Pacific, 5 p.m.-College football: NCAA sivision III championship game, Mary Har-

All Times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are stoject to change. Visit www.my

NFL

uruston III championoship game, Mary Hari-din-Bajor vs. Linfeld.

AFN-Boorts, 6 p.m. College basketball: Ken-tucky at Louisville.

AFN-Atlantic and Radio, 7:30 p.m.-NTL:
Pittsburgh at NY. Giants.

AFN-Boorts, 8 p.m.-College basketball:

Lexas at Wake Forest.

AFN-Pacific, 9 p.m.-College basketball: Ari-AFN-Atlantic 11 p.m.-College basketball:

AFN-Atlantic 11 p.m.-College basketball:

AFN-Atlantic 11 p.m.-College basketball: zona at warquette.
AFN-Atlantic, 11 p.m.-College basketball:
Oklahoma vs. Duke.
AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.-College baskketball:
Michigan at UCLA. igan at UCLA. **N-Pacific and Radio, 11 p.m.**-NFL: Wash-In at San Francisco.

### Pro football

St. Louis 6 7 6.
Arizona 4 9 0.
Arizona 5 211 0.
San Francisco Visid 9 11 0.
Scheriched Glysid 9 11 0.
Saturday's games Pittsburgh at N.Y. Glants Washington at San Francisco Carolina at Atlanta Sunday's games Houston at Sunday's games Houston at Detroit Seattle at N.Y. Jets Denyer at Kansas City Buffalo at Cincinnati

Dallas at Philadelphia San Diego at Cleveland St. Louis at Arizona. New Orleans at Tampa Bay New Orleans at Tampa Bay Jacksonville at Green Bay. Tennessee at Oakland Baltimore at Indianapolis Monday's gar New England at Miami Friday's games
Friday's games
Green Bay at Minnesota
Saturday, Dec. 25
Oakland at Kansas City
Denyer at Tennesco

Denver at Tennessee
Sunday, Dec. 26
Chicago at Detroit
San Diego at Indianapolis
Baltimore at Pittsburgh

Houston at Jacksonville Atlanta at New Orleans N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisco Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami Monday, Dec. 27 Philadelphia at St. Louis

#### Injury report

NEW YORK - The National Football League injury report, as provided by the

league: Saturday
WASHINGTON REDSKINS (4-9) AT SAN
FRANCISCO 49ERS (2-11) — Redskins: OIL
Jason Doering (ankle): K John Hall (right
quadricep): CB Shawn Springs (concussion)
QUESTIONABLE: LB LaVar Arrington (knee): JUST TO GART - TIM THE JUST AND rior (shoulder); RB Verron Haynes (knee); LB Clint Kriewaldt (hamstring); RB Duce Staley hamstring), PROBABLE: CB Chidi Iwuoma (hamstring). PROBABLE: CB Chidi Iwuoma (shoulder); DE Brett Kelsel (hamstring); C Chukky Okobi (back); S Troy Polamali (shoulder). Galants: OUT: LB Barrett Green (knee), DOUBTFUL: DT Norman Hand (groin); G Chris Snee (jaw/inflamed gland); WB Jamaar Taylor (quadricep); S Gibril Wilson (shoulder/burner). QUESTIONABLE: RB Ostohulder/burner). QUESTIONABLE: RB Ostohulder/burner).

(Shoulder/hurner), Ques Honables: MB Der-rick Ward (ankithers (6-7) AT ATLANTA FALCONS (10-3) — Panthers: DOUBTFUL: MB Casey Cramer (concussion), QUESTION-ABLE: CB Eddle Jackson (shoulder), PROBA-BLE: CB Chris Gambie (grpin); RB Nick Go-ings (ankle); C. Jeff Mitchell (Ince); Fakons-ton); Carlotter (Ince); Question (10-1); CB Description (10-1); CB Description

SUFFALO BLILLS SURGEY CONTINUES TO SEASON WITH BRIFFALO BLILLS SURGEY CONCEINED BRIFFALO BLILLS SURGEY CONCEINED THE BRIFFALO BLILLS SURGEY CONCEINED THE BRIFFALO BLILLS SURGEY CONCEINED SURGEY TO SURGEY THE BRIFFALO BLILLS SURGEY BEECK SURGEY SURGEY BRIFFALO BLITTLE BRIFFALO BRIFFAL

RB Chris Perry (abdomen): DE Carl Powell (knee): WR Keylin Walter (Dack). DALLAS COWBOYS (5-8) AT PHILIADELPHIA EAGLES (12-1) — Cowboys: QUESTIONABLE: B. Alshermond Singleton (groin). Eaglest ton): DT Hollis; Thomas (elbow): LB Select Hon): DT Hollis; Thomas (elbow): LB Meste Wayne (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: C Hank Fraley (ankle)knee): BR Beno Mahe (ankle); raley (ankle/knee); RB Reno Mahe (ankle); E Jerome McDougle (knee); WR Terrell Wens (back); DT Corey Simon (back). PROB-BLE: LB Keith Adams (stinger); DE Hugh ouglas (shoulder); G Airls Hicks (knee); CB oderick Hood (shoulder/hugh); G Jer-ane Mayberry (call); WR Todd Pinkston

mane Mayberry (callf), WR Todd Phinston
DENYER BROOKO (8-9 A) K ANASS CTY
CHES (8-9) — Brances (OTI C Willie Michol
September (1997) — Brances (1997) — Omac East, Gireck; Will, Johnsle, Morton Chamaton, State Sta

Gray (quadricep).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (7-6) AT GREEN
BAY PACKERS (8-5) — Jaguars: OUT: TE
George Wrighster (back). DOUBTFUL: OUBTFUL: OUT: TE
Juran Bolden (quadricep). PROBABLE: WR
Jimmy Smith (ankle); DT Marcus Stroud
(knee). Packers: OUESTIONARIE: T Kedde
(knee). Packers: OUESTIONARIE: T Kedde Jimmy Smith (anke); DT Marcus Strouc (knee), Packers; QUESTIONABLE: T Keyir Barry (quadricep), PROBABLE: T Chad Clift on (hamstring); LB Na'll Diggs (back/kid ney); DT Grady Jackson (knee); LB Nick Rog ers (knee); C Grave Pungamer (ankla) ers (knee); C Grey Ruegamer (ankle).
MINNESOTA VIKINGS (7-6) AT DETROIT
LIONS (5-8) - VIKINGS (0-6) AT DETROIT
LIONS (5-8) - VIKINGS (0-6) CHICK (0-6)
Smith (concussion). DOUBTFUL: CB Antoine
Winfield (ankle). Lions: OUT: LR Rose Raileinith (concussion). DOUBTFUL: CB Antoine infield (ankle). Lions: OUT: LB Boss Bailey nee/IR); WR Eddie Drummond (shoulder). UESTIONABLE: CB Fernando Bryant (ankle). AOBABLE: TJeff Backus (calf). NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-8) AT TAMPA.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-8) AT TAMPS BAY BUCANERS (5-9) - Saints: DOUBTFUL: G Montrae Holland (foot): LB Orlando Ruf (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: TE Ernie Conwell (back): LB Sedrick Hodge (knee): G Kendyl Jacox (knee): LB Roger Knight (knee). Bucca-neers: QUESTIONABLE: S Jermaine Phillips (arm). PROBABLE: TE Ken Dillger (ribs): S

TANK MCNAMARA

MURRAY, YOU SAID AN ATHLETE
GETTING A DISEASE IS LIKE
BEING PAID FOR LIVING! I DO A
FEW PERSONAL APPEARANCES
AND THE COMMERCIALS FOR THE
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY THAT
MAKES THE DRUG I TAKE, AND YOU'D
MAKE ME \$500K A YEAR!

DINET,

John Howell (ankle); TE Dave Moore (ankle); DE Simeon Rice (hamstring); S Dwight Smith

BRI Intower James C. L. Lange School School School Come J. Televista Waller (1901). A T CAUPE LANGE BROWN (1-10) The Chargers DOUST FILL CB Sample David Glower Jep fracture). On Hart (Concussion). Will Keerian Meccardell (Manstrin). PROBABLE RB Jesse Cardell (Manstrin). PROBABLE RB Jesse Christopher Charles Concerned Charles C MUBABLE: LB Kevin Bentley (nee).
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (7-6) AT NEW YORK
JETS (9-4) — Seahawks: OHT: LB Curbs Bentley

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and all chametring, FO Marcus Tubbs (ankels)
DE Grant Wistrom (shoes), DOUBTFUL DO
DE Grant Wistrom (shoes), DOUBTFUL DO
Concel. PROBABLE WE Bobby Tenprin
(ankels); G kerry Wursch (shoes), Jacks
Outroll Concel. PROBABLE (Shoes)
ST LOUIS BAAS (6-7) AT AREZONA CABITMENT
ST LOUIS BAAS (6-7) DOUBTFUL: QB John Navarre (right finger); LB Raynoch Thompson (shoulder), PROBA-BLE: T Jeremy Bridges (illness); RB Emmitt Smith (toe); S Michael Stone (foot); S Adrian

BLC. / reverty Bridges (filters): 58 Ernmit Wilson (Drindler)
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cussion); RB Chester Taylor (thigh). **Colist** DOUBTFUL: S Bob Sanders (knee). QUESTION ABLE: S Gerome Sapp (ribs); C Jeff Saturda, calif); WR Brandon Stokley (groin). PROBA BLE: TE Dallas Clark (arm/shoulder); LB Cat June (ankle/rhigh); DE Robert Mathis (back) G Tupe Peko (ankle); DT Josh Williams (shoulder).

G. Tuge, Peko Carticle); DT Josh Williams. Williams. Montally (1):3 Y MMAN DOLPHING CH. 1): Particle FOURTH (1): BOURTH (1): B

### College football

#### **Division I-A playoffs**

Championship Friday, Dec. 17 At Finley Stadium/Dayen Chattanooga, Tenn.
James Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-2)

### Division III playoffs

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 Stagg Bowl At Salem Stadium Salem, Va. Salem, Va.

Mary Hardin-Baylor (13-1) vs Linfield, Ore.
(12-0)

#### **NAIA** playoffs

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEWS? THE COMPANY'S RECALLING IT! THEY ADMIT IT CAUSES BIRTH DEFECTS, STROKE, HEART DISEASE, BIPOLAR PEPRESSION, LIVER FAULURE AND STERILITY!

STERLITY! FIRST OF ALL PRIST OF ALL POINT PANC.
YOU'VE STOPPED.
TAKNE IT, RIGHT?

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 At Jim Carroll Stadium Hardin County, Tenn. St. Francis, Ind. (13-0) vs. Carroll, Mont. (11-2)

### College basketball

### Men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. Illinois (9-0) did not play, Next; vs. Valparaiso, Sunday. 2. Kansas (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina. Saturday. South Carolina, Saturday.

3. Georgia Tech (7-0) beat James Madison 72-47. Next: vs. No. 22 Gonzaga, Saturday.

4. Oklahoma State (7-0) did not play. Next: at UNLV, Saturday.

ar UNIX Saturday.

5. North Carolina (7-1) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Sunday.

6. Wake Forest (8-1) beat Elon 85-67. Next: vs. No. 14 Texas, Saturday.

7. Duke (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois-Chicago, Tuesday.

8. Syracuse (8-1) did not play. Next: vs.

8. Syractuse (6-1) dud nos pagy.

9. Kentucky (6-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Louisville, Saturday.

10. Pittsburgh (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Saturday.

11. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: vs.

11. Connecticut (4-1) did not play, Next: vs. Rice, Sunday, 12. North Carollina State (8-0) beat Lujisland-Lailyette 78-72. Next: at No. 18 Washing-13. Louisyille (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Carollina A&T, Tuesday, 14. Texas (7-1) beat Texas-Arlington 85-70. Next: at No. 6 Wake Forest, Saturday. Next: at No. 6 Wake Forest, Saturday. Party Carola, Ve. Study, Next: at Marchay, Next: at No. 6 Marchay, Next: at Marchay, Next: at No. 6 Marchay, Next: at No. 6 Marchay, Next: at No. 6 Marchay, Next: at Marchay, Saturday, Next: at No. 6 Marchay, Next:

15. Arizona (6-2) (di not play, Next: at Man-guette, Saturdya, Next: va. Manhattan, Tues-de, Lowa (6-1), did not play, Next: va. West-17. Albaham, did 16-10 (d) not play, Next: va. 17. Albaham, did 16-10 (d) not play, Next: va. 18. Washington (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. 18. Washington (6-1) did not play, 19. George Washington (6-1) did not play, Next: at Xavier, Saturdiay, Next: at Xavier, Saturdiay, Next: vs. 19. Albaham, Saturdiay, Next: at Xavier, Saturdiay, Next: a 21. Michigan State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Delaware State, Saturday. 22. Gonzaga (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Georgia Tech, Saturday. 23. Maryland (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida State, Sunday. 24. Virginia (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Loy-ola Marymount, Thursday, Dec. 23. oia Marymount, Thursday, Déc. 23. 25. Cincinnati (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern State, Saturday.

### Wednesday's men's scores EAST Adelphi 79, Concordia, N.Y. 43 Juniata 81, Washington & Jefferson 58 Lehigh 65, Eastern 39 Mercyhurst 73, Shepherd 55

Merčyhurst 73, Shepherd 55 SOUTH Apprentice 89, Averett 74 Coastal Carolina 88, Jacksonville St. 78 Georgia Southern 85, Arkanşas St. 70 Georgia Tech 72, James Madison 47 Lander 67, Charleston Southern 59 Mississippi 81, 1704 99 Mississippi 81, Troy 49
N.C. State 78, Louislana-Lafayette 72
N.C. Asheville 75, Lenoir-Rhyne 61
Rollins 74, Webber 44
SE Louislana 82, Wiley 51
Sewanee 76, LaGrange 53
The Citadel 81, Savannah St. 58
UAB 107, Belmont 76 UAB 107, Belmont 76 Wake Forest 85, Elon 67 West Florida 83, Nova Southeastern 66 Wingate 69, North Greenville 53 Augsburg 103, North Central 56 Aurora 84, Judson 65 Baldwin-Wallace 74, Ohio Northern 54

Author St., Misson St. Ohlo Northern 54 Minnesotia 65, Pickago 81,58 N. Diskira 155, Pickago 81,58 Northwestern 55, Pickago 81,

FAR WEST Boise St. 78, E. Washington 67 Montana 62, Montana Tech 44 UTEP 75, New Mexico St. 64

#### Women's Top 25 fared

Mednesday,

1. LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: at Southwest Missouri State, Saturday.

2. Stanford (7-0) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Saturdy beat Jacksonville State 99-36.

Next: vs. No. 20 Purdue at Indianapolis, Saturday. 4. Texas (4-2) did not play. Next: at North Texas, Thursday.

5. North Carolina (8-1) did not play. Next:
vs. Georgia State at Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sunday. 6. Baylor (8-1) beat Washington 74-58. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday. 7. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: at Marquetta Sunday.

YES, MONTHS AGO. BUT THREE PEOPLE ON VENTILATORS HAVE SUEP ME

SINCE BREAKFAST!

8. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Arizona State. Tuesday. Dec. 21. 9. Tennessee (6-2) beat Louislana Tech 70-59. Next: vs. TCU, Sunday. 10. Ohio State (9-1) did not play. Next: at Oreoon. Saturday. Oregon, Saturday.

11. Michigan State (8-1) did not play. Next:
vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Sunday.
12. Texas Tech (5-1) did not play. Next: vs.
Arkansas State at Las Vegas, Saturday.
13. Minnesota (8-2) did not play. Next: vs.
Drake, Thursday, Dec. 23.
14. Boston College (7-1) did not play. Next:

vs. Saint Joseph's, Wednesday, Dec. 22. 15. Georgia (7-3) did not play. Next: at ona, Sunday. 16, UCLA (6-1) did not play. Next: at Illinois. 16. UCLA (6-1) did not pray, recall.
Sunday.
17. Vanderbilt (7-1) did not play, Next: vs.
BYU at Malbiu, Calif., Monday, Dec. 20.
18. Maryland (7-1) did not play, Next: vs.
Coppin State, Monday, Dec. 20.
19. Houston (8-0) did not play, Next: at Hausi, Thursday. 20. Purdue (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Duke at Indianapolis, Saturday. 20, Purdue (p-2) up the standay.

3 Duke at Indianapolis, Saturday.

3 Duke at Indianapolis, Saturday.

3-59. Next: at \$1. Peter's, Tuesday, Dec. 21.

22. Rutgers (5-2) did not play. Next: v. Clemson, Saturday.

23. Arizona State (7-1) did not play. Next: at Western Moxico, Saturday.

at New Moxico, Saturday.

### Saturday. 25. Kansas State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama at Springfield, Mo., Saturday. Wednesday's women's scores

Chestnut Hill 55, Villa Julie 45
SOUTH
Chattanooga 71, UNC-Greensboro
Duke 99, Jacksonville 51, 36
Elon 50, Greensboro 38
Elonda 51, 65, Florida Atlantic 40
Georgia Southern 73, Mercer 50
Cucisiana-Monroe 39, Belhaven 57
Oregon 51, 49, South Alabama 41
Richmond 101, Howard 57
Howard ensboro 62 Sewanee 75, LaGrange 37 South Florida 82, Southern U. 46 Tennessee 70, Louislana Tech 5! Valdosta St. 66, Georgia College Wingate 78, Winston-Salem 53 MIDWEST

MIDWEST

Baldwin-Wallace 67, Ohio Northern 45
Central St., Ohio 83, Lake Superior St. 75
Chicago St. 58, Ohio 45
Concordia, St.P. 96, Northwestern, Minn. 53 DePaul 73, N. Illinois 59

uerauu /3, N. Illinols 59 Evansville 69, Cincinnati 50 Kalamazoo 60, Olivet 49 N. Dakota 5t. 68, Minn-Duluth 57 Nebraska-Omaha 77, Dordt 56 Oakland Cbt 77, Lincoln Christian 48 Olivet Nazarene 112, Ill.-Springfield 109 Wis-LaCross 72, Clarke 43 Wis.-LaCrosse 72, Clarke FAR WEST Baylor 74, Washington 58 Denver 63, N. Colorado 53

### Deals

### Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with
LHP John Halama on a one-year contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Acquired INF Keith
Ginter from Milwaukee for RHP Justin Lehr
and OF Nelson Cruz.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with 1B Richie Sexson on a four-year con-

ract. National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to erms with INF Craig Counsell on a two-year erms with increasing socialists
contract.

CHICAGO CUBS—Named Grady Little spe-CHICAGO CUBS—Named Grady Little spe-cial assistant in player development and minor league roving catching instructor, and Randy Bush special assistant to the vice president and general manager. CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with RHP David Weathers and RHP Ben Weber on

colorado Rockies—Agreed to terms with OF Reggie Taylor on a minor league conract. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Announced the etirement of Tommy Hawkins, vice presietirement of Tommy Hawkins, vice presi-ent of external affairs. MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms vith 3B Russell Branyan on a one-year con-ract and LHP Tommy Phelps on a minor Pague contract.

league contract.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with
RHP Pedro Martinez on a four-year contract.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms
with C Einar Diaz and RHP Al Reyes on ne-year contracts.

National Basketball Association BOSTON CELTICS—Placed F Tom Gugliotta n the injured list. Activated F Justin Reed

on the injured list. Activited r Jusus necessifier of the injured list. For the injured list. Activited G Recordadors on the injured list. Activated G Tyronn Lue from the injured list. Activated G Antonio Burks on the injured list. Activated G Jason Williams from the injured list. Activated G Jason Williams from the Tyrottall.

National Football League...

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Released WR Reggle Newhouse and TE Lorenzo Diamond.
Signed WR Lawrence Hamilton, LB Isaac
Keys and DE Antonio Smith to the practice DETROIT LIONS—Placed LB Boss Bailey on njured reserve. GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Ike nodi to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed LB Raonall
ith on injured reserve. Signed CB Rhett
ison from the practice squad. Signed CB Mike Echols to the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed DT Ifo Pili

to the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed TE Billy
Baber. Released DE Corey Smith. Signed TE
Robert Johnson to the practice squad. Released DB Kalvin Pearson from the practice squad.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed K John
Hall on injured reserve. Signed K Jeff Chan-

Ier.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Named Rick Dud

### Kitna to run Bengals' surging offense

### Last season's starter takes over while Palmer rests sore knee

BY KEVIN GOHEEN

Scripps Howard News Service

CINCINNATI - Jon Kitna stepped into the news conference room underneath Paul Brown Stadium and did a double take The last time he snoke in the mom last sea son, he did so behind a lectern with one microphone. Now the room has a raised platform with a table and chairs for multiple speakers to sit on during an interview

"I want my podium back," Kitna said,

A few hours later, up to the seats hob bled Carson Palmer. A brace on his left leg, protecting the strained MCL he sufduring last Sunday's 35-28 loss at New England, Palmer leaned the crutches he used to enter the room up against a wall and managed himself up the couple of steps to the table.

"I think I get to ditch those on Saturday, so I'm looking forward to that," Palmer said, an indication of the possibility he'll play this Sunday when the Bengals host the Buffalo Bills. "It's looking bleak for this weekend, but right now I'm set on playing (Dec. 26) against the Giants. The only thing that's going to hold me back is if they (medical staff) won't let me play.

"It's getting stronger every day and I'm trying to keep as much pressure off of it but at times I'm testing it and seeing where it's at and it's getting stronger. I'll be ready to play next weekend.'

Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis said Wednesday the team's decision on whether to start Kitna or Palmer will wait until Sunday. But his young quarterback beat him to the punch.

"I'd be pretty shocked," said Palmer about playing. "It would be great. I'd love it. But I'd be pretty shocked.

So, apparently, in steps Kitna to retake control of an offense that in the past three games has produced at least 453 yards and averaged 37.7 points. No one expects the production to be any less against the Bills, even though Buffalo has the No. 3-ranked defense in the league

"The last time we had some uncertainty as to who was going to play, we scored 58 points, so I don't think that's going to be an issue," Kitna said, referring to the Bengals' 58-48 win against Cleveland on Nov. 28. Palmer suffered back spasms during the week, missed practice time and was listed as probable on the injury report for that

"We add new wrinkles here or there, but we do what we do whether Carson's in there or I'm in there. So I don't think there's going to be a disruption to the flow of the offense or anything like that. The stuff we've been doing this year is stuff that we've been doing for the last couple vears.

Kitna replaced Palmer in the third quarter at New England and completed nine of 13 passes for 126 yards, with one touch-



Last season, Bengals quarterback Jon Kitna (3) had career highs in touchdown passes (26) and passing yards (3,591). Carson

down and one interception. Palmer was knocked out of the game after being hit by Patriots defensive lineman Richard Sevmour as he released a pass.

Palmer expects to play on Dec. 26.

### Bulger might play at Arizona

ST. LOUIS - Marc Bulger tested his sprained right shoulder for the second time this week on Wednesday, giving the

briefs

St. Louis Rams some hope he might return to the lineup. Bulger missed Sun

day's loss at Carolina and backup Chris Chandler had a career-worst six interceptions. So there's urgency for Bulger to play with the Rams (6-7) one game back in the NFC

West entering Sunday's game at Arizona. On Wednesday, Bulger threw about a dozen passes in an individual drill after throwing several warmup tosses. He threw about three-quarters speed and a bit side arm, but it was enough for coach Martz to exclaim. citing Bulger's jersey number,

"10's back!" after the first pass Bulger didn't participate in any team drills, but the plan is to gradually increase the work load and then make a decision on

his availability, perhaps on Friday "I don't know what to tell you because he actually threw the ball much better today

than I would have predicted," Martz said after practice. "He feels like he can zip it, but we just asked him to refrain from that. Martz said Bulger, who wasn't made available for comment, had a little trouble

on the follow through

### Bears LB Urlacher unlikely to play

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - Brian Urlacher missed practice Wednesday and his latest hamstring injury is expected to keep the Bears' linebacker out of Sunday's game

#### NFL injury update

eam's prognosis. (See Page 24 for complete injury eport provided by the league): Packers: LB Na'il Diggs (bruised kidney) probable. Rams: FS Aeneas Williams (neck) likely out for the

dskins: CB Shawn Springs (concussion) out for

"It's not looking good," coach Lovie Smith said Wednesday

Steelers' Bettis thinking about retiring

PITTSRURGH - Jerome Bettis is thinking about retiring The Pittsburgh Steelers running back said his health - not whether the Steelers

win the Super Bowl — will determine whether he plays in 2005. Bettis missed significant playing time in 2001 and 2002 with groin and knee injuries, but hasn't missed a game since than

Bettis, the NFL's No. 6 career rusher with 13,037 yards, has flourished as a part-time running back the past two seasons

He ran for 811 yards in 2003 despite backing up Amos Zereoue for six games and has 647 yards and a career-high 12 touchdowns this season, including four consecutive 100-yard games while replacing injured Duce Staley.

"I'm not getting any younger," said Bet-tis, who will be 33 in February. "Every time we win it means a lot more because it could be the last one

"If it is, it is, I'm not going to be the sentimental guy to cry after every game.

### Redskins PK Hall done for season

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins kicker John Hall is done for the season with a torn right quad muscle, his fourth leg injury in three months.

The Redskins signed Jeff Chandler to kick for the rest of the season. Chandler has made 14 of 21 field goal attempts in 10 games over three seasons with San Francisco and Carolina, including two games as a fill-in this season for the Panthers when John Kasay was injured.

Also Wednesday, linebacker LaVar Ar-rington practiced with the first-team defense for the first time in months. He is listed as questionable for Saturday's game at San Francisco.

### Janikowski gets five-year extension

ALAMEDA, Calif. - Sebastian Janikowski finalized a \$10.5 million, five-year contract extension with the Oakland Raiders on Wednesday that makes him the high-

est paid kicker in the NFL. The 26-year-old Janikowski, the Raiders first-round draft pick in 2000, has converted all but three of his 22 field-goal attempts this season for the Raiders (4-9). He is

#### Panthers P Sauerbrun arrested for driving while impaired

112-for-140 in his career

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Carolina Panthers punter Todd Sauerbrun was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, a police spokeswoman said Thursday.

Sauerbrun also was charged Wednesday with speeding and driving while his licen was revoked, said Julia Rush of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department.

The All-Pro player was released Thurs-day morning on \$1,700 bond, Rush said.

Coach John Fox said Wednesday that Sauerbrun will play Saturday at Atlanta.

### Tice's status seems shaky in Minnesota

BY MARK MASKE The Washington Post

Minnesota Vikings owner Red Mc-Combs made a rare Monday appearance this week at the club's training facility in Eden Prairie, Minn., saying he was there to attend the annual Christmas party. Being festive, however, couldn't have been easy for members of the orga-nization the day after a potentially season-wrecking loss to Seattle that included an errant trick play that could end up costing coach Mike Tice his job.

McCombs expressed support for Tice

but again said he won't make a decision until after the season about whether to exercise the club's \$1 million option for next season in the coach's contract. Mc-Combs said he was not bothered that Tice publicly expressed interest last week in the University of Washington's coaching job.

McCombs said he is foremost a fan and he knew what the team's followers were talking about - the decision to have wide receiver Randy Moss throw a first-down pass from the Seattle 20-yard line that was intercepted in the end zone with just more than two minutes to play in the Seahawks' 27-23 triumph.
"I suspect that in the state of Minneso

ta, the conversation in every science lab oratory, every working crew out build-ing a highway, the guys out at the airport getting ready to fly planes, is going to be the Vikings and why did they have that stupid play there at the end of the game," McCombs said.

#### Lacking big plays, Jets' run-oriented attack is grounded time I get out there I can beat passing, something Pennington luster performance in a 17-6 loss more, both last week against the

BY ANDREA ADELSON The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. - Santana Moss prides himself on being the big-play receiver for the New Vork Jets

So how does he feel now that the Jets have hardly hit any long pass plays the past few weeks while struggling to score?

"I am coming out there furious sometimes because I think every somebody. But if I don't get the ball, what can I do?" Moss said. Though Moss avoided saying he

wanted the ball more, it was clear how he felt when asked how to be more involved in the offense: "Get back there, throw myself the ball and then I run it." he joked.

Though he was kidding, Moss and some of his teammates showed frustration with the offense Wednesday following a lackto Pittsburgh. Earlier this week, backup running back LaMont Jordan said the Jets fail to play well in big games and the offense needs to produce.

That means more big plays from the offense, which has relied heavily on the run this season.

In two games since Chad Pennington returned from a strained right rotator cuff, the Jets have two passing plays for 20 yards or

Steelers. Moss, the fastest player on the team, has been a non-factor for most of the season, though he does have several drops

He has a combined four catches in the past two games for 43 yards. Last season, Moss had a career year, going over 1,000 yards with 10 touchdown receptions

When asked why the Jets have not relied more on play-action

does well, some players bristled.

Center Kevin Mawae declined to answer the question, while Moss responded, "If I had the answer I would give it to you clearer, but I don't have it."

"I think we will get back to that," Pennington said, "We will get back to it and mix it up and do what we need to do to win. We know we have to score points. We can't just try to win games 13-10."

### Eagles face nice dilemma

### If home field is in hand, team could rest starters

BY BOB BROOKOVER The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles might find themselves in a rare situation Sunday after they run through that large inflatable helmet and past the cheerleaders at Lincoln Financial Field

Thirteen hours earlier, the results from the Carolina-Atlanta game will be in, and if the resurgent Panthers win, the Eagles will have nothing to play for in terms of the standings

when they take on the Dallas Cowboys.
Only four teams in the 26 years since the schedule was extended to 16 games have had their division title, a first-round bye and home-field advantage wrapped up before they

played their 14th game.

The good news for the Eagles and coach
Andy Reid is that three of those teams went
on to win the Super Bowl. But they still must
figure out how they are going to handle the sitnation

Do the starters continue to play? If so, do they play the entire game, half a game, one quarter? Does anyone with even a minor injury get the week off? Reid apparently has already made up his mind about how he's going to handle the game with the Cowboys on Sunday, regardless of the Falcons' result.

"The starters are going to play and that's how we'll approach it," he said Wednesday. That's fine with the starters.

"If going into that week or game, I'm not Dawkins said. "If he says I'm going to play, then I will take that," safety Brian Dawkins said. "If he says I'm going to play, then I will take that. In other words, whenever my number is called to be on the field, I'm going to give you what I've got."

Quarterback Donovan McNabb agreed.

"I'm a guy who loves playing football," McNabb said. "No matter what decisions Andy makes, as a player, I want to get out there and continue to get better. so when the playoffs.

come around, we are at our best and ready to

"It always feels good to go out there and be fresh, but you want to keep your chemistry and your timing. If it's playing the whole game against St. Louis or going out and playing against Cincinnati, obviously it's his decision, but I'm going to prepare like I'm playing every game."

Former Eagles linebackers coach Ron Rivera was a member of the 1985 Chicago Bears team that went 15-1. That team remains the only one to have clinched home field throughout the playoffs with four games left.

out the payous wrum roaf ganies ret.

The Bears, however, had plenty of motivation in their 15th gane because they were still
unbeaten at the time. They lost their chance to
go unbeaten on "Monday Night Fooblal" in
Mann, but Rivera, who is in his first season as
the Bears' defensive coordinator, said coach
Mike Dikk kept things intense for the final

"In "85, we played every game the same, and we practiced the same way," Rivera said. "We wore pads every day and we hit every day, especially for our nine-on-seven drills. Our starters played just like any other game and, once the game was in hand, we replaced

them with us backups.
"I believe [Ditka] felt the only way to keep our edge was to continue to approach the rest of the season like it meant something. The loss to Miami seemed to take some of the pressure off us and was kind of a wake-un call."

Rivera said Ditka wasn't that concerned about finishing with a 15-1 record after the loss to Miami, but defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan remained determined to make sure the Bears finished the season as the NFL's No. 1 defense.

Ditka's approach worked in that postseason as the Bears rolled to their first Super Bowl title, outscoring their three opponents 91-10. The Denver Broncos and coach Mike Shanahan took a different approach in 1996.



Even if the Eagles have nothing to play for Sunday against Dallas, quarterback Donovan McNabb said, "I'm a guy who loves playing football. No matter what decisions Andy [Reid] makes, as a player, I want to get out there and continue to get better, so when the playoffs come around, we are at our best."

After going 12-1 and clinching home-field advantage in the AFC, Shanahan replaced quarterback John Elway the following week with Bill Musgrave and the Broncos were whipped by the eventual Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

Elway started the next week and played a quarter in Denver's season finale, but the Broncos lost two of their final three games and ended up losing to Jacksonville in their first playoff game.

Interestingly, the coach took a different approach to things in 1998.

Even after the Broncos lost their 14th and 15th games of the season and had nothing to play for in their season finale, the coach left Elway in the entire game in the regular-season finale.

The only other team to have homefield advantage wrapped up before its 14th game of the season was the 1984 San Francisco 49ers. They finished 15-1 before winning their second of five Super Bowls by blowing away Miami.

### 49ers QB Dorsey has a taste of success

The Associated Fress

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Ken Dorsey's second season with the San Francisco 49ers has taken a turn for the better. Now he's determined to keep it moving in that direction.

Dorsey will start his second consecutive game Saturday against the Washington Redskins, and he could finish the season at quarterback in place of regular starter Tim Rattay.

Rattay is out with a foot injury and might not play again this season. Dorsey had the best game of his career Sunday, leading the 49ers to a 31-28 overtime victory at Arizons.

That win snapped a seven-game losing streak for the 49ers (2-11), who are looking to salvage something out of a tumultuous season that has featured coaching controversy and plenty of lackluster performances.

on tacktister performances
"You've kind of got to keep your
foot on the pedal, just kind of stay
aggressive and just make sure
you're on top of the ball the whole
game," Dorsey said. "That gave us
a lot of opportunities last week."

Dorsey took advantage, winning for the first time in four career starts. He threw three touchdown passes, completing 18 of 34 passes for 191 yards and guiding San Francisco to the winning field goal in overtime.

Dorsey had struggled in his previous two starts in place of Rattay, failing to lead San Francisco's offense to a touchdown in losses to Seattle and Chicago. He entered last week's game with a quarterback rating of 53.9, a figure lower than any NFL quarterback who qualified for those ratings.

Dorsey's previous struggles this year diminished enthusiasm within the organization that the former University of Miami star could be the 49ers' quarterback of the future. But Dorsey's play last week rekindled some hope.

"He did some really good things and made some really good throws," coach Dennis Erickson said. "He's healthier now and he made good decisions. He missed some throws, which you are going to do when you haven't played, but he made some good ones to win it."

Dorsey hit receiver Cedrick Wilson between three defenders for a first down on a third-and-17 play that kept the winning drive alive. Dorsey said it might have been the best throw he has made in the NFL, and it was one he couldn't have made earlier in the year when he was dealing with back, groin and thumb injuries.

"It's kind of a relief just to be able to go out and perform and play well again," said Dorsey, who didn't take a snap last year as a rookie after leading Miami to a 82-2 record in four years as a starter. "It's kind of a load off your mind and lets you realize that you can still play this game, have success out there and understand that the hard times aren't always going to be so hard."

### Shanahan says Plummer is staying

BY FRANK SCHWAB The (Colorado Springs) Gazette

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — On the same day that Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer continued to answer questions about an obscene gesture he made dur-

ing Sunday's game against Miami, Broncos coach Mike Shanahan confirmed Plummer is his quarterback of the future. Shanahan told ESPN on

Wednesday that he will exercise the \$6 million option bonus that Plummer is due in March, which means Plummer will be the Broncos' quarterback for next season and likely beyond. "Jake Plummer's going to be

bere," Shanahan said, according to ESPN.com. "I like him. I like the way he competes. Normally I don't talk about contracts. But since there's been a lot of attention on him the last couple of weeks, I'm really supportive."

That lays to rest the biggest question about Plummer, who has been under a lot of heat in recent weeks for his spotty play and his controversial gesture.

Plummer said he hasn't been informed by the NFL if he will be fined for the gesture he made to a heckling fan after he threw a first-quarter interception. NFL spokesman Steve Alic said the league will announce this week whether Plummer will be fined.



Denver coach Mike Shanahan, above, said the team will exercise the \$6 million option bonus that Jake Plummer is due in March. The incident was a hot topic

during Plummer's weekly news conference. Plummer was asked again

about the gesture. Like he did after Sunday's game, Plummer apologized.

"What happened last week, I think I've addressed well enough on Sunday night and I'm apologetic for it and stand up here as man and say that will never happen again," Plummer said. "But, any time I've ever made a mistake or I've ever done wrong, I want to move on and the only



Jake Plummer has thrown 17 interceptions, tied for second-most in the NFL, and 22 TD passess, third in the AFC.

thing I can do is try to correct that. A big win in Kansas City is a right step in that direction." The Broncos play at Kansas

The Broncos play at Kansas City on Sunday. Plummer also talked about

what caused him to react to the heckling fan Sunday. "You're looking at a guy that's not perfect." Plummer said. "I'm

"You're looking at a guy that's not a robot. I'm a man that's got warm blood that sometimes gets hot in there and runs through my veins. People do things that they regret. As long as you can learn a lesson from it and step up and be a man about what your actions were and move on, I think that's the true lesson you learn from it." Plummer might not have it

easy this week playing at Arrowhead Stadium, one of the most hostile stadiums to visitors. Chiesguard Will Shields said he didnknow if Plummer would have a tougher time at Arrowhead because he reacted to a heckler last week, and he added the Chiefs' stadium isn't much different than any NFI, stadium.

"I think anywhere you go, there's going to be some fan that's looking to heckle people and give us a hard time." Shields said on a conference call with Colorado reporters. "I haven't played in a place that doesn't have one or two, or maybe even five or six. That's what they get their kicks out of, trying to be difficult and trying to affect your play on the field."

One point Plummer made a

few times during his conference was that a lot of the criticism of him would subside a bit if the Broncos win at Kansas City.

Plummer has thrown 17 interceptions this season, tied for second-most in the NFL. He has also thrown 22 touchdowns, which is third in the AFC, and is on pace to throw for 3,998 yards. Plummer said he thought he has the support of plenty of Broncos fans. "I think there's still a large

[group] of people that are happy I'm here." he said.

## **Pedro introduced as Met, takes jabs at Sox**

BY HAL BOCK

NEW YORK — After helping the Boston Red Sox win their first title in 86 years, Pedro Martinez will try to lead the New York Mets to their first championship

since 1986.

Martinez was introduced at Shea Stadium on Thursday, a day after he passed his bhysical and the Mets finalized his \$53 mil-

lion, four-year contract.
"It was more of a commitment from this team than it was money, actually," Martinez said. "I gave Boston every opportunity to actually get me."

Martinez turned down a \$40.5 million, three-year offer from the Red Sox and told his agent Monday to work out a deal with New York.

"Boston wouldn't pull the trigger," he said. "Why did they have to wait until the

last minute or so?" Martinez, a 33-year-old right-hander, has had shoulder problems at times but he



Pedro Martinez wears his new New York
Mets cap during a news conference at Shea
Stadium in New York on Thursday.

passed the physical conducted Wednesday in New York.

"This is an exciting day for the New

York Mets family," general manager Omar Minaya said. "I am going to go to war with Pedro Martinez on my team."

During parts of his seven seasons in Boston, Martinez often was allowed to arrive at the ballpark later than other players and to take extended vacations during the All-Star break. New Mets manager Willie Randolph plans to speak with Martinez about rules.

"You don't have a lot of rules, but there are certain things that everyone has to abide by," Randolph said Wednesday. "You can't have a different set of rules for different people."

Willie Randolph played with Martinez's older brother, Ramon, with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Randolph remembered Pedro as a young kid coming up in the Los Angeles organization.

"Willie, I know a lot of people might try to confuse you with a lot of things," Martin-

In response to question in Spanish, he answered in Spanish: "Pedro Martinez is

an employee who takes pride in his work," he said. "Pedro Martinez is a man of his word."

word."

Martinez went 16-9 with a career-high
3.90 ERA last season, when the Red Sox
won their first World Series title since
1918, and was 117-37 in seven years with

Minaya said the Mets next will try to add offense, focusing on first base and right field, as they try to reach the playoffs for the first time since losing the 2000 World Series to the Yankees

Mike Cameron, dressed as Santa Claus as he gave out Christmas presents to children Wednesday at the stadium, was at first surprised about Martinez's decision to sign with the Mets.

"I don't know the situation, but when it's all said and done, Pedro is a fierce competitor," Cameron said. "The guy's been a winner and he's been a great adversary. He'd be a great addition to the New York Mets."

### Nats: D.C. has until Dec. 31 to reach deal

NATS, FROM BACK PAGE

Council Chair Linda W. Cropp proposed the private financing amendment, which was approved 10-3 after she threatened to withhold support from the overall package, which then passed in a 7-6 vote.

"I am not trying to kill the deal," Cropp said. "I'm putting some teeth in it because I'm really disappointed with what I got from Major League Baseball."

The September agreement estimated the cost of building the ball-park and refurbishing RFK Stadium at \$435 million, but critics claimed it would cost far more. The proposal, as initially ap-



Mondays in Stars and Stripes

proved by the council on Nov. 30, called for Washington to issue up to \$531 million in bonds to cover the cost.

"We had a deal. I believe the deal was broken, and the dream of 33 years is now once again close to dying. I would say close," Williams said.

Meanwhile, some of the communities that had lost out in the bidding for the team prepared to resume their efforts to lure the franchise

"If the opportunity arises for the Expos again, we are going to be standing there along with everyone else," said Will Somerindyke Jr., head of a Norfolk, Va., baseball group.

Somerindyke's organization has returned the deposits it collected on nearly 10,000 season tickets and almost 100 luxury boxes during its drive to get the Expos. He didn't think it would be difficult to get those deposits back

"We are impressed and encouraged that major league baseball had the fortitude to say that what Washington, D.C., did was unacceptable, and clearly contrary to the terms upon which D.C. was awarded the franchise," Drew

Mahalic of the Oregon Sports Authority said.

Northern Virginia's group had hoped to build a ballpark near Dulles International Airport.

"We hope that the District of Columbia will be able to fulfill the terms of its agreement and succeed in bringing Major League Baseball back to this region," Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority spokesman Brian Hannigan said.

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman went to baseball's winter meetings last weekend trying to attract attention to his efforts to lure a team. But he could not offer a firm stadium plan.

"It's just a glint in my eye, at this point," he said.

Washington has lost teams twice before: The original Senators became the Minnesota Twins after the 1960 season and the expansion Senators moved to Texas 11 years later.

"Here we are back where we were five years ago — the nation's capital, the center of the world, a city of possibility, aspiration and ambition and opportunity, and a city that cannot do what it says it's going to do," Williams said. "Tim saddened that we can go so far in five years and step back so far in five minutes."

## Mariners use \$50M to lure 1B Sexson

Boston.

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners added power to one of the weakest lineups in baseball Wednesday, agreeing to a \$50 million, four-year contract with free agent first baseman Richie Sexson.

"This is first and foremost

MLB briefs

where I wanted to be," said Sexson, who is from Brush Prairie, Wash. "In the back of

my mind, and for my family, we knew this is where I wanted to be."

Sexson, a career .271 hitter, said he also considered offers from Baltimore and the New York Yankees.

He's coming off a frustrating injury-shortened season with the Arizona Diamondbacks. He hurt his left shoulder on a check-swing and didn't play after May, batting .233 with

nine homers and 23 RBIs.
"That was the worst experience I've ever gone through as an athlete." Sexson said. "Pride takes over, then guilt. It sure helps to have family around you to say it's not your fault because it sure feels like it is."

ready after extensive physical exams by Mariners doctors. Word leaked this week at the winter meetings that a deal was close, but the agreement was delayed by three days of rigorous tests. Despite the injury, his proven

He's confident his shoulder is

power made him an attractive free agent. Sexson, who turns 30 on Dec. 29, hit 45 homers for Milwaukee in 2001 and 2003. He has 200 career homers and posted four 100-RBI seasons. Sexson is so excited about Se-

Sexson is so excited about Seattle that he's willing to move to left field, if it helps the Mariners win. In his first full season in the majors, with Cleveland in 1999, he made 40 starts in left and 53 at first base. Seattle is still negotiating with

free agent first baseman Carlos Delgado and third baseman Adrian Beltre.

#### Yankees discuss Johnson NEW YORK — The Yankees

and Arizona Diamondbacks spoke Wednesday about Randy Johnson for the second time in three days, and New York moved closer to finalizing contracts with free-agent pitchers Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright.

Yankees president Randy Levine spoke with incoming Arizona chief executive officer Jeff Moorad a second time, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

No new proposals were exchanged during the conversation, and the two planned to speak again, the official said.

speak again, the official said.

Also Wednesday, the Yankees
and agent Scott Shapiro agreed
that Pavano's deal will include a
team option for a fifth season
and that the contract will guarantee the right-hander \$39.95

### Bradley begins sentence CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley began serving a three-day jail sentence on Wednesday for driving away while being issued a speeding ticket more than a year ago. Bradley's appeals in the case

were exhausted last week when the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the trial judge did not unfairly sentence him. Bradley, 26, was a member of

Bradley, 26, was a member of the Cleveland Indians when he was charged with driving 52 mph in a 25-mph zone when he was arrested Aug. 30 last year in northeast Ohio. Police said Bradley was is-

sued a speeding ticket but would not sign it, rolled up his window and drove away.



### Wake looks ordinary in struggling past Elon

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser didn't want to talk about his team. Who could blame him?

Perhaps caught looking ahead to No. 14 Texas, the sixth-ranked Demon Deacons were downright ordinary against overmatched Elon on Wednesday night. And whether starting forward Vytas Danelius plays against the Longhoms is anyone's guest.

horns is anyone's guess.

Prosser sent Danelius to the locker room with 16 minutes left in the 85-67 victory over the Phoenix. Prosser wouldn't discuss



what happened, and Danelius said he didn't know. "It was

sion," he said. "I didn't conduct myself as a Wake Forest basketball player."

Chris Paul had 14 points and 11 assists and Kyle Visser added 13 points for the Deacons.

"Rather than talk about what we didn't do, Elon deserves credit," Prosser said. "I thought the Elon kids played really, really hard. I thought they took it to us the whole game."

Asked Danelius' status against the Longhorns on Saturday, Prosser said he didn't know.

As if all that wasn't bad enough for Wake Forest, forwards Eric Williams and Jamaal Levy left the game with injuries, although neither appeared to be serious. Williams sprained his ankle and said he expects to play against the Longhorns.

Levy came down hard on his left arm while committing a charge to foul out.

"I don't feel bad," Paul said. "A win's a win."

The Demon Deacons (8-1) struggled to put away Temples on Monday night and also played sloppily against Elon, trailing about 4 minutes into the second half. Justin Gray made a three-pointer, Trent Strickland followed with two free throws and the defensively challenged Demon Deacons showed some bite.

Elon (2-7) ended five of its next six possessions with a turnover, and the other featured a badly missed three-pointer by Montell Watson. Twice, Wake Forest's press forced traveling violations before the ball reached midcourt.

Still, Elon hung in, getting within eight points on a layup by Chris Chalko with about 8 minutes left. The Deacons finally sealed it with seven straight points, including a basket by Visser off Paul's 11th assist

Paul, a sophomore, also had six

Chalko had 16 points and Scottie Rice added 15 for Elon, which has lost seven of eight.

"There is no such thing as a moral victory," Elon coach Ernie Nestor said. "The best thing you



Wake Forest's Chris Paul (3) drives past Elon's Scottie Rice (11) for a basket during the second half of No. 6 Wake Forest's 85-67 victory Wednesday night.

do in a season cannot be a loss, you must win games. But we're not going away from tonight feeling that this was a total wasted effort."

Wake Forest continually pounddd the ball inside and outscored Elon 48-22 in the paint, with Visser leading the way. The 6-foot-11 center nearly matched his season- and career-high of 15 points that he had earlier this season against Yale, the only previous time he scored in double figures.

time he scored in double figures.

"When he plays like he's 6-11,
he's a very positive asset for us,"
Prosser said

No. 3 Georgia Tech 72, James Madison 47: At Atlanta, Isma'il Muhammad scored 14 points and Jarrett Jack added 13 to lead the Yellow Jackets (7-0), who strugeled offensively but had another strong defensive effort. Leading scorer B.J. Elder, averaging 18.7 points, managed only four on 1-fort. Shooting in 25 minutes of the property of

Ray Barbosa had 15 points for the Dukes (2-4), who lost their fourth straight.

No. 12 N.C. State 78, La-Lafayette 72: At Raleigh, N.C., Andrew Brackman scored 20 points and Julius Hodge 16 for the Wolfpack (8-0), who have their best record since going 9-0

Tiras Wade scored 37 points and hit five three-pointers to lead the Ragin' Cajuns (3-5).

Wade hit two free throws and then made a contested, double-pump three-pointer to pull Louisiana-Lafayett to 74-72 with 6.9 seconds to go. But Cameron Bennerman made two free throws to put the game away.

No. 14 Texas 85, Texas-Arlington 70: At Austin, Texas, P.J. Tucker had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Longhorns (7-1), who won for the 34th time in their last 35 home games. Texas shot 56 percent in taking a 52-29 half-time lead.

Jarrett Howell scored 24 points for the Mavericks (4-3).

## Ole Miss picks an SC man

Orgeron, USC's defensive line coach, takes hed job; Solich said going to Ohio U; Wannstedt out at Pitt

The Associated Besse

OXFORD, Miss. — Ed Orgeron's recruiting success at Southern California helped him land the job as Mississippi's football coach

"We are going to teach our young men to compete," Orgeron said during a news conference on Thursday. "We're going to compete from the time we get up in the morning until the time we go to bed."

The Rebels hope the 43-year-old Louisiana native can use his ties to the Deep South to lure talented recruits to Oxford and reinvigorate the Ole Miss program with the tough, punishing defense that became a Southern Cal staple.

Orgeron was USC's defensive line coach, an assistant head coach for two years and the closest thing the school had to a defensive coordinator; head coach Pete Carroll is in charge of the Trojans' defense.

Orgeron also was USC's recruiting coordinator for four years.

"This is the beginning of the Orgeron era at Ole Miss, and it's going to be a successful one," chancellor Robert Khayat said.

Orgeron's hiring capped the Rebels' two-week search for a replacement for David Cutcliffe, who was fired Dec. 1 after his first losing season at Ole Miss. Orgeron's candidacy surfaced

shortly after Cutcliffe's firing.

Last week, he openly campaigned for the job and called it a

orgeron has been a coach on three national championship teams — two under Erickson at Miami (1989 and 1991) and last

year at USC.



Ed Orgeron comments during a news conference Thursday. Orgeron, a USC assistant, was hired as football coach at Mississippi.

Top-ranked USC plays No. 2 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4. Cutcliffe was fired after a diffi-

cult season in which he struggled to replace quarterback Eli Maning and refused to make major staff changes after going 4-7. Cut-cliffe was 44-29 in six seasons at Ole Miss, 25-23 in the SEC, and just a season removed from going 10-3.

Source: Ohio U. hires Solich

ATHENS, Ohio — Former Nebraska coach Frank Solich has been hired as football coach of Ohio University, The Associated Press learned Wednesday night. Solich, who turned down the coaching job at Army after last season, said Wednesday night he could not comment on the report. Solich was fired by Nebraska

after the 2003 season despite a 58-19 record as the successor to Tom Osborne, who retired in 1997 after winning three national championships in his last four seasons. Osborne, now a U.S. congressman, was 49-2 in those final four seasons, leaving Solich with an almost impossible task of maintaining that success.

Solich, an assistant under Osborne from 1979 to 1997, led the Cornhuskers to the national championship game in the 2002 Rose Bowl, a 37-14 loss to Miami.

Nebraska was only 7-7 the next year, the school's first season since 1961 without a winning record. Solich was fired the next season despite going 9.3. Assistant Bo Pelini then coached the Cornhuskers to a 17-3 victory over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl

Under Bill Callahan, Solich's replacement, the Cornhuskers were 5-6 and failed to qualify for a bowl for the first time in 35 years.

#### Wannstedt no longer candidate for Pitt job

PITTSBURGH — Former Miami Dolphins and Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt decided Thursday not to seek the coaching job at Pitt, the school where he played and once was an assistant coach.

Wannstedt, who resigned as the Dolphins' coach Nov. 9 after Miami lost eight of its first nine games, was believed to be the front-runner to succeed Walt Harris at Pitt. But Wannstedt called Pittsburgh athletic director Jeff Long on Thursday morning and pulled his name out of consideration.

### Ex-players question Zook hiring

The Associated Fress

CHAMPAIGN, III. — Former Illinois football players are questioning whether the school searched hard enough for a black or minority coach to replace Ron Turner before hiring recently fired Florida coach Ron Zook.

The 62 former players wrote a letter to athletic director Rouge Guenther on Nov. 22, the day Turner was fired, asking him to "enact a search process that includes several African-American candidates and other coaches of color." They attached a list of candidates.

Copies of the letter were sent to interim Chancellor Richard Herman and members of the university's board of trustees.

"We wanted to make sure there was a system in place for fairness in opportunity for the head coaching job at the University of Illinois," Eric Rouse, a starting wide receiver in the late 1970s, told The (Champaign) News-Gazette. "We didn't want the South Carolina situation where Lou Holtz says, 'I retire. Here's Steve Spurrier, head coach.' That's not fair."

The former players say they aren't upset that Guenther hired Zook, but they aren't happy about the perception that Zook's hiring was a done deal before the application deadline for candidates.

Zook's hiring was announced less than 24 hours after that Dec. 6 deadline.

"That's what got our ire up," Rouse said.

Former Illini running back Howard Griffith said he believes Guenther hired the person he thought would be best for the job. But Griffith said he also believes the hiring process was not as open as it should have been.

"We know the offer didn't come until one minute after 5, officially," Griffith said. "But you know a hand was shaken probably Tuesday or Wednesday. That's what reasonable people would think.

"We know he (Guenther) interviewed Leslie (Frazier) and Kirby Wilson at the end of the process. We would be safe in assuming a handshake deal was done before that. You would figure," he told the newspaper.

Frazier is defensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals and Wilson is running backs coach for the Arizona Cardinals. Both are black.

Guenther was out of the office Wednesday afternoon and did not immediately return a call for comment from The Associated Press.

Herman, the interim chancellor, approved Zook's hiring, as did the school's equal employ-

ment opportunity committee.
"I know who was in the final five. There was clear representation of black coaches and we wound up with the best person," Herman told the AP Wednesday.

## Michigan craves better result in Rose

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — They posed for pic-tures with Paris Hilton, rubbed elbows with NBA stars and enjoyed Los Angeles' nightlife. Then, Michigan was dominated by South ern California at the 2004 Rose Bowl

This time, the Wolverines insist they'll have a businesslike approach while preparing for the Rose Bowl because they want to come home with a win over Texas, not just off-the-field stories.

"That's the biggest issue and guys realize that from last year," Roy Manning said Wednesday. "If you go out there, it's great that you get there. But if you don't win, it's al-

most like not even making it out there. The 13th-ranked Wolverines (9-2), the win ningest team in college football, will face No. 6

Texas (10-1), a storied program, for the first time in Pasadena, Calif

"It's special," Tim Massaquoi said. "It's two great programs with a lot of tradition playing for the first time so there's going to be a lot of hype surrounding it."

Michigan will play in a bowl for the 30th straight season, the nation's longest active streak, and its ninth straight game on New Year's Day.

The Wolverines are led by a school-record four AP All-Americans — receiver Braylon Edwards, center David Baas and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Ernest Shazor.

AP All-America linebacker Derrick Johnson leads Texas' defense while running back Cedric Benson and tackle Jonathan Scott both of whom made the AP's second team

are the stars on offense. "They are very talented," Michigan coach football team we've played this fall, and we've got to play our best game.

Larry Harrison Jr., a contributing defensive tackle, will not join his teammates next week when they travel to California, and Adam Stenavich, a starting offensive tackle. might be left behind.

Harrison was suspended after he was arrested and charged with indecent exposure earlier this month.

Stenavich was arrested for disorderly conduct last month in Marshfield, Wis., his home-

"Adam Stenavich has not practiced in the last few practices because I suspended him pending finding out exactly what happened there," Carr said. "I'm hoping that in the next day or two I will have all the information, and at that point I'll make a decision on whether or not he accompanies the team to Los Angeles.

AP Division I-AA

**All-America Team** FIRST TEAM OFFENSE - Lang Camp Quarterback — Lang Campbell, Will-lam & Many, senior — Charles Anthony, Tennessee State, senior: Cilfon Daw-son, Company — Cilfon Daw-son, Company — Cilfon Daw-son, Wilde receivers — DaYon Fowlkes, Ap-palachian State, senior: Vincent Jack-son, Worthern Colorado, senior.

ilor.
Linemen — Ben Bainbridge, Furman, se-lor; Eric Deutsch, Wofford, senior; Bust-r Ashley, Western Kentucky, senior; Imer McDaniel, Southern Illinois, se-ior; Matt Magerko, James Madison, jun-

cker – Jon Scifres, Southwest Mis-

souri State, junior.

DEFENSE
Linemen — Brady Forsmark, Weber
State, junior; Harold Wells, Gard-ner-Webb, senior; Chris Gocong, Cal
Poly, junior; Lee Basinger, Wofford, se-nior.

nlof.
Linebackers — Boomer Grigsby, Illi-nois State, senior; Jamall Johnson, North-western State, senior; Liam Ezeklel,
Defensive backs — Tad Kornegay,
Pordham, senior; Shannon James, Massa-chusetts, junior; Kenny Chicoine, Cal

ton State, senior. Running backs — Oscar Bonds, Jack-sonville State, senior; Jamal Branch, Col-

Sonville State, School, January Ball, New Ball, New Hampshire, Sophomore; Dominique Thompson, William & Mary, Senior. Tight end – Ray Goodson, Southeast Missouri, Senior, Lindhold, Missouri, Lindhol

ligit end – Ray (soodson, Southeast MisSouri, seild Bolton, Montana State, Junior; Chad Motte, Georgia Southern, Junior; Adam Bourget, Northeastern, se-nior; Cory Procter, Montana, senior; Mike Roos, Eastern Washington, senior; All-purpose – Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington, Junior Kicker – Craig Coffin, Southern Illi-Ricker – Craig Coffin, Southern Illi-

Micker – Uragi Cunin, Soutnern im-osis, Sophomore BFERSE
Linemen – Tom Alfsen, Lehigh, senior, Sean Conover, Bucknell, jurilor; Mike Murphy, Montana, Sophomore; Marcus Linebackers – Jordan Beck, Cal Poly, senior; Kevin Talley, Morfolk State, se-nior; Gan Villante, Hoffsra, Sophomore, orin; Gan Villante, Hoffsra, Sophomore, ern Kentucky, senior; Alexis Moreland, Southern Illinois, senior; Sidney Haugabrook, Delaware, senior; Tony Puntre – David Simonhoff, Southeast

Ouarterbacks — Erik Meyer, Eastern Washington, Junior. Travis Glasford, Western Illinois, Junior, Scott Phaydayon, Drake, Freshman et Junior, Scott Phaydayon, Drake, Freshman et Junior, Forth Huggins, Southeastern Louisiana, Junior, Jarrod Fuller, Sam Houston State, senior, Tight end — Wade Fletcher, Columbia, senior.

nade Hetcher, Columbia,
Linemen — Albert Turmer, Georgia
Southern, Senior, Dustin Bayer, Rhode Is-land, senior; Pelani Clement, Hampton, senior; John Pettus, Jacksonville State, senior: Chris Louvier, Sam Houston State, senior.

vard, senior. Kicker – Greg Kuehn, William & Mary.

Junior.

DEFENSE
Linemen — Roy Ravenell, Furman, sophomore: Tom Parks, Delaware, Junior, Jamil Butler, Villanova, senior; Adam Connor, Villiam & Mary, Junior. Linebackers — William Treeman, Furman, Junior; Roger Cooper, Montana State, Senior; Nick DiPadova, Southern

Linebackers — William Freeman, Fur-man, Junior, Roger Cooper, Montana State, senior; Nick DiPadova, Southern Utah, senior; backs — Daren Bamett, Southwest Missouri State, Junior; A.L. Bryant, Georgia Southern, Junior; Nick Collins, Bethune-Cookman, senior; Reed Doughty, Morthern Colorado, Junior. Punter — Brian Claybourn, Western Kentucky, Senior.

Punter — David Simonhof Missouri, sophomore. THIRD TEAM OFFENSE

ern, senior. er – Paul Ernster, Northern Arizo-

### College football

Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bowl Payout: \$750,000 Payout: \$750,000

Mississippi 31, North Texas 10
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$850,000

Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5) Wednesday, Dec. 22 GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala. Payout: \$750,000 mphis (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3) Thursday, Dec. 23

Thursday, Dec. 25
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl
Payout: \$750,000
Iti (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)
Las Vegas Bowl
Payout: \$575,000
Ig (6-5) vs. UCLA (6-5)

Friday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl At Honolulu At Honolulu Payout: \$750,000 Hawaii (7-5)

Monday, Dec. 27
Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payouts '375,000
Fresno State (8-3) vs. Virginia (8-3)
Motor City Bowl
At Detroit

Payout: \$750,000 vs. Connecticut (7-4)

Jegyout: 3-100,000 Jegyout: 3-100,000 Tuesday, Dec. 28 Indeependence Bowl 4t Shreveport, La. Payout: \$1.2 million (c.5) vs. Marin (Ohio) (8-4) Insight Bowl Payout: \$750,000 ate (6-5) vs. Notre Dame (6-5 Wednesday, Dec. 29 Houston Bowl Payout: \$1.1 million 2-30 (8-3) vs. Colorado (7-5) 45 and 10-10 (7-5) 45 and 10-10 (7-6) Payout: \$1.55 million (7-9) vs. (Oklahoma State (7-7-9) vs. (Oklahoma State (7-7-7-9) vs. (Oklahoma State (7-7-7-9) vs. (Oklahoma State (

At San Antono
Payout: \$1.5 million
Ohio State (-7-4) vs. Okishnom State (-7-4)
State (-7-4) vs. Okishnom State (-7-4)
Continental rine Event
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College (6-3) vs. N. Carolina (6-5)
Emerald Bowl
Emerald Bowl
Figure (19-1)
Figure (19-1) At San Diego Payout: \$2 millio

Payout: \$2 million (10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4) Silicon Valley Classic At San Jose, Calif. Payout: \$750,000 vs. Northern Illinois (8-3)

) vs. Northern Illinois Friday, Dec. 31 Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn Payout: \$780,000 (6-5) vs. Minnesota ( Minneso un Bowl

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1.5 million
4) vs. Arizona State (8-3)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.35 million
e (11-0) vs. Louisville (10-1)

Payout: \$2.2 milli

Saturday, Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl At Dallas

At Dallas

As opul: 3 million

Tennessee (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4)

Othack Bowl

At Tampa, Fla.

Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)

Gator Bowl

At Casonia (19-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)

Gator Bowl

Gapital One Bowl

At Orlando, Fla.

At Orlando, Fla.

At Orlando, Fla.

At Orlando, Fla.
Payout \$5.187 million
lowa (9-2) vs. LSU (9-2)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calf.
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calf.
Piesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout \$14.5 million
Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (6-3)
Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (6-3)
Supar Rowl

Sugar Bowl

At New Orleans
Payouts \$11-14 million
12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2)
Tuesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payouts \$11-14 million
Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)
Saturday, Jan. 15
Gridfion Classic
At The Villages, Fla.
South

East-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco

East vs. West Saturday, Jan. 22

Hula Bowl At Maui, Hawaii Saturday, Jan. 29

Tennessee out to renew bowl success

BY ELIZABETH A. DAVIS The Associated Press KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Tennes-

see's last two trips to bowl games turned into disappointing fail-

The Volunteers hope a few changes will help them finish this season as winners.

A loss to Auburn in the Southeastern Conference championship sent No. 15 Tennessee (9-3) to Dallas for the Cotton Bowl to play No. 22 Texas A&M (7-4) on New Year's Day.

The Vols are appearing in their 16th straight bowl and 13th under coach Phillip Fulmer, who is 6-6

in the postseason. Tennessee lost 30-3 to Maryland in the 2002 Peach Bowl and 27-14 to Clemson in Atlanta last

Fulmer believes the problem then was focus.

"Arguably, we're at least as good as both of those teams and maybe better, and we didn't play 44 We're tired of going to bowl

games and losina. We still have something to prove. 77

Gerlad Riggs

as well as we would have liked to have played," he said Wednesday at Tennessee's bowl media day.

Those two teams were excited about playing Tennessee. I don't think we were so excited about playing those two teams. I think our team is really excited about playing Texas A&M."

In a small change from previous years, Fulmer has planned two lengthy scrimmages during bowl practice on campus before the team has a holiday break and

reconvenes in Dallas on Christmas Day.

The Vols will scrimmage for about 60 plays Thursday and about 40 plays Saturday when Tennessee's first team will face the second-teamers simulating the Aggies' offense and defense.

We have scrimmaged some but not to that number of plays, Fulmer said.

With exams finished and school out for the holidays, the players only have to worry about football. Tailback Gerald Riggs believes being more relaxed and having fun helps the team stay fo-

"We want to win. We're tired of going to bowl games and losing. We still have something to prove," Riggs said. "Tennessee has been known as a team [that] they're pretty good but once they step out of conference in a bowl game, they kind of shoot themselves in the foot. We want to get that tag off of us."

Fulmer hopes the extra practice time will help shore up the continuing problems in the secondary, which he says is the team's "Achilles' heel." Players with nagging injuries will get a chance to rest for the game

Freshman Brent Schaeffer is trying to work himself back into the rotation at quarterback after not playing since he broke his col-larbone on Oct. 30. Junior Rick Clausen, who started the last three games, will start in the

Erik Ainge, who separated his shoulder in the Notre Dame game on Nov. 6, will not be ready to play This is Tennessee's sixth trip to

the Cotton Bowl. The Vols are 2-3, and their last win was over Arkansas on Jan. 1, 1990. Tennessee lost to Kansas State

35-21 in its last trip to Dallas to cap the 2000 season.

The Vols will have their hands full with the Aggies, another Big 12 team with an option quarterback, Reggie McNeal. 'We've got to match their inten-

sity. The Cotton Bowl is a great traditional game for the old Southwest Conference and Big 12 people," Fulmer said. "They're going to be really excited about playing in it and playing against Tennes see. We've got to be the same way.

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TeamStores



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## Dickau finds a spot, leads **Hornets to first home win**

Dan Dickau can play in the NBA, after all.

The point guard scored a career-high 23 points - including a four-point play on a 32-footer at the third-quarter buzzer - to help the New Orleans Hornets win at home for the first time this season, 98-89 over Golden State on Wednesday night.

"I don't look like your typical NBA player, so I get a lot of people that pull for me because of that," the 6-foot, 190-pound Dickan said. "I'm getting a chance to play now, and I'm trying to make the most of it. We start winning a little bit more and it's definitely going to be a great experience."

Playing for his fourth team in three NBA seasons, the former Gonzaga star has finally caught on in New Orleans. He has reached double figures in five of seven games since the Hornets acquired him from Dallas - and he's become a fan favorite

"He's fearless. He still doesn't know everything yet. He just plays off of instinct, but he's been a pleasure to play with," Hornets forward P.J. Brown said.

Dickau scored 12 points in a 20-5 run early in the fourth quarter that gave New Orleans the

lead for good. David Wesley added 18 points



to help the Hornets snap an 11-game skid.

Troy Murphy had 25 points and 12 rehounds for Golden State

"This was a dangerous game against a team that hasn't won for a long time ... and we didn't show up," Murphy said. "They've got a lot of guys who are hungry, who haven't had a chance to play

a lot in the NBA

years ago

Suns 108, Jazz 86: At Phoenix, Joe Johnson had a sea-son-high 30 points to help the league-leading Suns improve to 19-3. It's the NBA's best season-opening record since Dallas led by current Suns point guard Steve Nash — was 21-3 two

Spurs 94, Magic 91: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs. Manu Ginobili added 17 points for the Spurs, who lost Tony Parker to a groin injury. Orlando's Steve Francis scored 20 points, but missed a tying three-pointer in the final seconds.

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 88: LeBron James scored 25 points and Ira Newble added a season-high 18 in Cleveland's ninth straight home victory James also had 11 rebounds

and seven assists and Jeff McInnis added 18 points. Darius Miles led Portland with

Nuggets 100, Celtics 99: At Boston, Carmelo Anthony's scored 25 points — including a

jumper with 3.6 seconds left — to lift the Nuggets to their seventh victory in 10 games Paul Pierce had 31 points for

the Celtics. He had a chance to win it, but his jumper at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Marcus Camby added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the Nuggets.

Pistons 94, Knicks 93: Chauncev Billups hit two free throws with 2.6 seconds left for Detroit. Richard Hamilton scored 29 points for the visiting Pistons. Stephon Marbury had 18 points

for New York, but fumbled a pass in the final seconds before missing an underhanded 18-footer as time expired. Heat 98, Wizards 93: At Wash-

ington, Dwyane Wade had 29 points and nine assists to help Miami win its sixth straight

Shaquille O'Neal added 13 oints and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who swept the four-game season series with Washington.



New Orleans Hornets' Dan Dickau (2) and Golden State Warriors' Speedy Claxton (10) scramble for a loose ball late in the second half.

Raptors 96. Timberwolves 90: At Toronto, Chris Bosh had a season-high 24 points and 14 rebounds as the Raptors snapped a

seven-game skid. Kevin Garnett, who had 23 points and 15 rebounds, was knocked to the floor late in the game by Matt Bonner. Garnett and Latrell Sprewell went after the mokie forward before being held back.

Bonner was ejected, and Sprewell received a technical foul for shoving him.

Bulls 96. Grizzlies 88: Eddv Curry had 20 points to help Chicago win its second road game. Pau Gasol had 24 points for Memphis.

Rockets 92, Hawks 69: Tracy McGrady had 25 points, and Yao Ming scored 23 to lead Houston at home.

#### NBA scoreboard

### **Eastern Conference**

.500 .429 .429 11 12 12 11/2 9 12 .429 7 14 .333 8 16 .333 ivision 17 7 .708 12 8 .600 13 9 .591 5 14 .263 4 18 .182

Western Conference Southwest Division .783 .625 .455 San Arru Dallas Houston 31/2 15 .375 19 .095 Division
18 4 .818
14 8 .636
13 9 .591
10 11 .476
10 13 .435 Utah Pacific Division
Pacific Division
Sacramento
LL Liskers
12 0 1 5 6 1
LL Liskers
12 0 7 15 3
Golden State, Wedensday 8 Mamington 98
Miami 98, Washington 98
Miami 98, Washington 98
Derivol 94, New York 93
Derivol 94, Wedensday 94
Phoenix 106, Utah 95
Phoenix 106, Utah 95
Phoenix 106, Utah 95
Cievalend at Derivit

Milwaukee at Chicago L.A. Lakers at Sacramento Friday's gam Toronto at Indiana New York at Indiana New York at Philadelphia Utah at Boston Portland at Atlanta Denver at Miami Deriver at Miami New Jersey at Memphis San Antonio at New Orleai L.A. Clippers at Minnesota Golden State at Houston Phoenix at Seattle Washington at L.A. Lakers Saturday's ga Houston at Charlotte Denver at Orlando Denver at Orlando Boston at Cleveland

poston at Cleveland Portland at Detroit Indiana at Chicago Philadelphia at Milwaukee Golden State at San Antoni Atlanta at Dallas Washington at Phoenix

#### Wednesday Raptors 96, Timberwolves 90

Raptors 96, Timberwoives 90

MINNESTON - Szczeniak 574 415, Garnett 9-72 4423, Madsen 1-2 0-21, Spreadl
13-0-31, Caseal 7-12-0-91, 40 (lowekand
13-0-13), Caseal 7-13, Caseal

Total fouls—Minnesota 18, Toronto 12, Tech nicals—Sprewell. Flagrant fouls—Bonner A—16,888 (19,800).

### Nuggets 100, Celtics 99

### Heat 98. Wizards 93

meat 30, wizarus 33
mMaM — Lones 47-019, Haslem 2-9 0-0
4, O'Neal 69-1-8 13, Wade 11:23 7-10 29,
10-00es 3-16-2 2-2, Doleac 24-15, Leattner
1-01as 3 40, 15-24, 20, 16-22,

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 88

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 58
PORTLAND - MIS-915 341, Randolph
5-12-02, Batliff 02-22, Stondamir 2-10
5-12-02, Batliff 02-22, 22, Bondamir 2-10
7-12-12, Batliff 02-22, 22, Bondamir 2-10
7-161a; 2-4, 12, 5, Oudaw 1-10
7-161a; 2-4, 12, 12, 12, 12
7-161a; 2-4, 12, 12
7-161a; 2-4, 12
7-161a; 2-

Three-Point Goals—Portland 3-13 (Ander-son 2-5 Van Eul 1-5, Stoudamire 0-3), Cleve-land 7-11 (McInnis 3-5, James 2-3, Wagner 1-1, Harris 1-2), Fouled out -None. Rebound-s—Portland 49 (Randolph, Przybilla 7), Cleve-land 44 (James 1). Assists—Portland 42 (Stoudamire 7), Cleveland 13 (McInnis 9). Total fouls—Portland 20, Cleveland 17. Tech-nicals—Van Exel, Ilgauskas. A—17,897 (20,552).

### Pistons 94. Knicks 93

-0.2.1vcm--Detroit

Detroit

New York

Three-Point Goals—Detroit 4-8 (R.Wallace
-2, Hunter 1-2, Billups 1-4), New York 10-19

Crawford 6-9, Houston 2-5, T.Thomas 1-1,

Marbury 1-3, Norris 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 50 (B.Wallace 13). New York 39 (K-Thomas 10). Assists—Detroit 21 (Hunter 5), New York 18 (Marbury 7). Total fouls—Detroit 17, New York 19. Technicals— Marbury. 4—19,763 (19,763).

### Hornets 98, Warriors 89

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 1-6 0-0 2, Mur-hv 9-13 6-8 25, Robinson 4-9 0-0 10, Claxton 

leans 3-10 (Dickau 2-5, Freije 1-4, Smith 0-1) Fouled out –Pietrus. Rebounds-Golder State 49 (Murphy 12), New Orleans 55 (Brown 11). Assists—Golden State 18 (Claukon 12) New Orleans 24 (Wesley 6). Total fouls—Gold en State 24, New Orleans 20. Technicals—Mur phy, Wesley, A—13,841 (17,200).

### **Bulls 96. Grizzlies 88**

DUILS 70, UTZZIES 30
CHICAGO - Deng 39 2-29, Davis 2-2 2-26,
Curry 8-17 4-6 20, Duhon 1-2 0-0-3, Hürrich
14-0-15, Corpor 5-9-4-15, Nordonia 37-25
14-0-15, Corpor 5-9-4-15, Nordonia 37-25
14-0-15, Corpor 5-1-4-16, Corpor 5-1-4-1

Co. 1.0, Ways 1-2.2 as.

Chicago Memphine Goals - Chicago 27-17, Hernito Chicago Memphine Goals - Chicago 27-17, Hernito Chicago Memphine Goals - Chicago 27-17, Hernito Chicago 17, Pathorous 12, Aucolan 1-1, Gordon 1-1, District Chicago 17, Hardine 17, Hardi

ATLANTA — Harrington 9-18 2-4 21, Walker 18 2-3 8, Collier 1-9 0-0 2, Diaw 2-5 1-2 5, 2-5 o, comer 1-9 0-0 2, Dlaw 2-5 1-2 5, 1.5mith 3-5 8-12 14, Childress 4-8 0-0 8, Ivey 0-2 0-0 0, Drobnjak 4-8 0-0 8, Anderson 1-1 1-2 3, Delk 0-4 0-0 0, Willis 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-79 14-23 69. HOUSTON — Jackson 5-9 0-0 13, Howard 5-11 1-2 11, Yao 6-12 7-9 23, Sura 2-5 1-15, Great 9-10 5-25, Bowen 1-10 0-2 1-10-2-6 Weatherspoon 0-2 0-0 0, Padgett 0-1 0-0 0, Barrett 0-0 0-0 7 Ordals 35-75 17-31 22-69 Atlanta 11 10 11 (Harrington 1-3, Diay 0-1, Childress D-1, Walker 0-9, Houston 5-2; Oakson 3-5, McGrady 0-9, Houston 5-5; McGrady 0-9, Houston 5-1, Walker 0-9, Houston 5-12; Clarkson 3-5, McGrady 0-9, Houston 5-12; Clarkson 3-5, McGrady 0-9, Houston 5-12; Clarkson 3-5, McGrady 0-9, Houston 5-12; Clarkson 3-6, McGrady 0-9, McGrady

0-6), Houston 5-12 (Jackson 3-5, McGrady 2-4, Padgett 0-1, Lue 0-1), Srua 0-1), Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 58 (J.Smith 10), Houston 50 (Yao 8), Assists—Atlanta 15 (Diaw, Ivey, J.Smith 3), Houston 18 (Jackson 5), Total Touls—Atlanta 22, Houston 19, A—9,980 (17,982).

### Spurs 94, Magic 91

ORLANDO — Hill 8-16-2-3 18, Howard 1-7 6-6 8, Battle 6-8 2-2 14, Mobley 7-16 4-4 21, Fran-cis 5-19-9-20, Bradley 6-10-00, Turkoglu 3-8 0-7, Kasun 0-2 0-0, Augmon 0-0-0-0, Nel-son 1-1 1-2-3, Garrity 0-0-0-0. Totals 31-78

24:26 91. SAN ANTONIO — Bowen 1-4 0-0 3, Duncan 10-21 4-6 24, Nesterovic 1-4 0-3 2, Ginobili 7-13 2-2 17, Parker 6-15 6-0 -13, Brown 5-10 0-1 11, Rose 4-6 4-4 12, Udrih 2-5 2-2 8, Horry 0-0 4-4 4, Barry 0-0 -0 0, Wilks 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-78 16-2 94.

Technicals—San Antonio Second, A—17,384 (18,500).

### Suns 108, Jazz 86

Three-Point Goals—Utah 0-8 (Harpring 0-1, poez 0-1, Bell 0-1, Humphries 0-1, Elsley 0-1, nyder 0-3), Phoenix 10-25 (Johnson 5-5, Bar-osa 2-4, Jacobsen 1-2, Marion 1-3, Richard-on 1-7, Lampe 0-1, Nash 0-3), Fouled out-Noenix 51 (Marion 13), Assists—Utah 29 (Marion 13), Assists—Utah 29 (Sozer, Okur 11), (Lopez 8), Phoenix 18 (Nash 11), Total fouls tab 26, Phoenix 16, A = 14,908 (18,422).

## Jones sues BALCO's Conte for comments

By DAVID KRAVETS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Olympic track star Marion Jones has filed a defamation lawsuit against Victor Conte and challenged the BALCO head to take a lie detector test regarding his accusations that she used performance-enhancing drugs.

nancing drugs.

Jones is seeking \$25 million in
the suit filed Wednesday in U.S.
District Court in San Francisco,
alleging Conte tarnished her reputation when he made the statement broadcast Dec. 3 on ABC's

Conte and three others connected to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative were indicted in February by a federal grand jury for a variety of alleged offenses, including illegally distributing steroids.

The suit said Jones passed a lie detector test and includes a statement from her doctor saying she never used steroids. Jones won three gold medals and two bronzes during the 2000 Olympics.

es during the 2000 Olympics.

Conte's statements, the suit said, "are false and malicious."

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Conte said the lawsuit was "nothing more than a PR stunt by a desperate woman, who has regularly used drugs throughout her career. I look forward with all confidence to the court proceedings as I stand by everything I said on the '20/20' special."

Jones' lawyer offered Thurs-

day to pay for Conte to take a lie-detector test and wants three questions asked of him:

■ Did he observe Jones injecting herself with performance enhancing drugs on April 21, 2001, as he stated on national televi-

■ Has he ever leaked any grand jury testimony or other evidence related to the BALCO investigation?

■ Has he ever observed Marion Jones illegally taking any performance-enhancing drugs?

Conte. BALCO vice president James Valente, track coach Remi Korchemny and Greg Anderson, he personal trainer for basehall slugger Barry Bonds, face federal indictment on a range of accusations. The federal charges include distributing steroids, possession of human growth hormome, money laundering and misbranding drugs with intent to defraud. All have pleaded innocent.

Conte told ABC: "I think she made her decision, and she's going to have to be accountable to the consequences of her decision. If she said she didn't use drugs, then she lied."

Jones' lawsuit says she has passed 160 drug tests, including five during the 2000 Olympics, and "has never taken banned performance-enhancing drugs."

It claims that Conte's motive to concede steroid distribution ahead of his criminal prosecution "appears motivated by a desire to curry favor with prosecutors, garner sensationalized media atten-



Marian Janes

tion, bolster Conte's own financial and other self interests and harm an individual against whom Conte has a long-standing grudge."

The five lawyers representing Jones in the lawsuit wrote that Conte "seeks to take full credit for all of her past successes, falsely asserting that Jones' five Olympic medals in 2000 were the product of his illegal drug regimen instead of Jones' true talent.

Jones failed to win any medals last summer in the Athens Olympics. She has been under investigation for months by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which has said it will take Conte's allegations into account.

The founder of Burlingame-based BALCO, Conte said he worked with Jones from Aujust 2000 to September 2001. He said he designed a doping regimen for her that included the previously undetectable steroid THG, the endurance-enhancing hormone EPO, human growth hormone and insulin.

### Miller 13th in training for Val Gardena event

The Associated Press

VAL GARDENA, Italy — France's Antoine Deneriaz solidified his position as the man to beat in Saturday's Val Gardena downhill with another strong performance in training Thursday.

Deneriaz, winner of this World Cup classic the past two years, finished second behind Norbert Holzknecht.

Holzknecht. a relatively unac-

Holzknecht, a relatively unaccomplished member of Austria's "Wunderteam," has only registered one top-10 finish in his career, ninth here last year in his first World Cup season.

Deneriaz was 0.23 seconds behind Holzknecht, with Austria's Werner Franz third, 0.30 seconds back. Franz won last weekend's downhill in Val d'Isere, France.

Overall World Cup leader Bode
Miller posted the 13th fastest
time, although the American
braked sharply before crossing
the line to get an earlier starting
spot. Skiers sometimes think that
an earlier or later starting position will provide better course
conditions, depending on weather
forecasts and other factors.

Miller won the season's first two downhills and leads the discipline standings.

With six wins in 10 races overall this season, Miller is dominating the entire World Cup circuit, leading Austrian rival Hermann Maier by 391 points in the overall standings.

#### Two face manslaughter charges in skier's death

ANNECY, France — The French coach and the starter present when French ski racer Regine Cavagnoud was killed in a training accident will both be charged with manslaughter, judicial officials said Thursday.

Coach Xavier Fournier and starter David Fine are to appear before a court in this alpine town before the summer.

Cavagnoud, the super-G gold medalist in the 2001 world championships, collided with German coach Markus Anwander on the Pitzkal glacier in Austria in October 2001 while training with the

German team

Fine allegedly cleared Cavagnoud to start without being sure that his German counterpart, Tjesimir Peranic, had warned Anwander that Cavagnoud was beginning her descent. Peranic will not be charged.

Cavagnoud, who also allegedly wasn't warned of Anwander's start, crashed into him at 50 mph. She died two days later.

Fournier and Fine are also set to appear, along with the French Ski Federation, before a court in Innsbruck, Austria, for involuntary injuries to Anwander, according to Dominique Delafon, lawyer for the two. The date for that trial has not been set

### Australia calls it 'football'

MELBOURNE, Australia — They'll be playing "football," not "soccer," in Australia from now

The Australian Soccer Association is changing its name to Football Federation Australia, a sym-

### Sports briefs

bolic move that chairman Frank Lowy said Thursday is meant to bring the country into line with the majority of the world.

The United States, Canada and New Zealand are among the few countries that call the sport "soccer."

Lowy said the wording change is a significant step in improving the sport's profile ahead of the start of next year's new national competition, the A League, and World Cup qualifying. One casualty might be the tradi-

tional nickname of the national team: the Socceroos.

#### J.S. woman fastest in downhil

VAL D'ISERE, France
North American women excelled
in a World Cup downhill training
session Thursday, posting the
day's fastest three times. Bryna
McCarty of the United States
clocked the quickest time in 1
minute, 43.18 seconds, followed
by Canadian Emily Brydon in
143.43 and Lindsey Kildow of the
U.S. in 143.46. Kildow won a downhill and was

third in a super-G in Lake Louise, Alberta earlier this season.

McCarty's teammates, Caroline Lalive and Kirsten Clark, joined her in the top 10. Lalive was 0.56 back while Clark trailed by 0.87.

#### Czech Republic wins ROSNO Cup hockey opener

MOSCOW — Tomas Vlasak scored the game-winner in a penalty shootout Thursday to give the Czech Republic a 4-3 victory over Sweden in the opening match of the ROSNO Cup hockey tourna-

Sweden's Cristian Berlung tied it 3-3 with 12:45 left in the third period.

The ROSNO Cup is a successor of a once famous Izvestia Cup.

### of a once famous Izvestia Cup. Janitor charged with stealing medals from swimming hall

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—
A janitor has been charged with stealing more than 100 Olympic medals and other memorabilia from the International Swimming Hall of Fame, including Hollywood star Johnny Weissmuller's 1924 medals and an ancient Greek medal.

Paul Nichols Christow, 48, was charged with two counts of dealing in stolen property and two counts of grand theft over \$100,000 after he allegedly swiped medals valued at nearly \$500,000, police said Wednesday. The scheme was discovered

after the medals were sold to a collector over the Internet. The collector contacted the Hall of Fame after acquiring the medals won by Weissmuller, who played Tarzan in the movies during the 1930s and 1940s.

Police traced the theft to Christow, set up a sting, and caught him on tape trying to sell more Olympic goods. He was arrested

Investigators have recovered about half of what was stolen.

## Bryant says he wants to meet with O'Neal to tender apology

The Associated Pres

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant wants to apologize to former teammate Shaquille O'Neal for mentioning his name during a police interview last year.

Bryant appeared on ESPN's

"Pardon The Interruption" and 
"NBA Shootaround" on Wednesday and said he didn't mean to 
bring up O'Neal's name when he 
was being interrogated by police 
officers.

The interview came after a woman accused Bryant of raping her.

"I would apologize for any harm that I brought him and his family," Bryant said of O'Neal. The Miami Heat will play the

Lakers on Christmas Day, the first meeting of the teams since O'Neal was traded to Miami. Bryant said he wants to speak to O'Neal then.

Bryant was accused of sexually assaulting the woman at a Colorado resort where she worked in June 2003. The Lakers star maintained they had consensual sex. Prosecutors dropped a sexual assault charge against Bryant on Sept. 1 after the woman said she no longer wanted to participate in the criminal case. She had filed a civil suit against Bryant about three weeks earlier.

During Bryant's interview with investigators, he said that he had heard O'Neal had paid up to \$1 million to various women in exchange for them keeping quiet about situations like his

O'Neal dismissed those allegations as "ridiculous."

There have been no published reports of O'Neal ever being accused of sex crimes.

The former Lakers center was informed of Bryant's allegation last September, and the relationship between the two was strained throughout the 2003-04 season. After the season, O'Neal demanded to be traded

"I never intended in any way to mix him into my troubles and difficulties that were going on at the time," Bryant said Wednesday. "Things kind of got blown out of proportion and people really ran with that stuff. I just apologize to him for that."

Bryant said he has passed the

word to O'Neal through a mutual friend that he would like to discuss the matter.

"December 25 sounds like a good day to me to kind of talk to him and tell him I never meant in any kind of way to bring any of his personal business out,"

Bryant also answered questions Wednesday about the recent spat with another former teammate, Karl Malone, Bryant has accused Malone, who is recovering from knee surgery, of making a pass at his wife during a game last month.

Malone's agent said last week that his client didn't plan to return to the Lakers because of comments Bryant made in a radio interview questioning Malone's intent in rejoining the

"To me, it's water under the bridge," Bryant said Wednesday. "I just kind of want to move on from it. We just go our separate ways."

## **SPORTS**



Dickau has career-best night to lead Hornets over Warriors, Page 30

## Nationals' deal nearing collapse

### MLB shuts down business operations over financing plan

BY JOSEPH WHITE

WASHINGTON — Baseball's response to Washington's lawmakers was strong, swift and ominous. Or, as Mayor Anthony A. Williams put it: "The dream of 33 years is now once again close to dying."

On Wednesday, Major League Baseball shut down business and promotional operations indefinitely for the team that has been relocating from Montreal. Baseball essentially gave the city 15 days to change its mind about a new financing plan, or else the search could begin anew for a permanent home for the troubled franchise.

At issue is a measure passed late Tuesday by the District of Columbia Council, which voted to approve the Expos move to Washington if private financing is used for at least half the cost of building a stadium. Baseball has been adamant that a stadium be funded with 100 percent government money up front, as stipulated in a September agreement negotiated with Williams. "The legislation is inconsistent with our carefully negotiated agreement and is wholly unacceptable to Major League Baseball," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief op-

Season-ticket sales were immediately halted, and the 16,000 fans who have made \$300 deposits can ask for a refund. The stadium store, which had sold more than \$100,000

in caps and other mer-

erating officer.

chandise over 3½ weeks, was shut indefinitely at the close of business Wednesday. The unveiling of uniforms with the team's new name, the Washington Nationals, was postponed. A hiring freeze was im-

plemented.

Only the baseball side of the operation will continue to function as usual, although the sudden drop in revenue will hamper general manager Jim Bowden's ability to

sign player

"Don't expect us to spend a lot of money at this point," team president Tony Tavares said. "We will continue to try to the make the team competitive, but I don't expect to us to be a big

buyer."

Washington has
until Dec. 31 to work
out an arrangement
acceptable to baseball. That's when the
agreement with the
city expires, allowing
baseball to reopen the

process of selecting a permanent host city. The Council could reconsider its vote in light of baseball? established the council could remoney should not be used to fund a sports facility in a city in dire need of better schools and other public services. Whatever the possible compromises, the

days are running short.
"We'll use them all, every minute of

every hour of every day, and all of us move to the middle," Williams' spokesman Chris Bender said. "It's ninth inning, second out, we have to make it happen."

we have to make it happen."
DuPuy did not address where the team
would play its 2005 home schedule if the
deal with Washington falls through. It remains unclear whether baseball would
move the franchise to Washington's RFK
Stadium on a temporary basis, remain at
Montreal's Olympic Stadium or go to anoth-

er city.

The developments were stunning to fans who have been waiting for baseball since the Washington Senators move to Texas following the 1971 season.

"It's like you're in a 100-yard dash, and you're one yard away from the finish line," said Charlie Brotman, longtime Senators public address announcer and a prominent advocate for baseball's retrum. "You're beating everybody, and all of a sudden you've got a cramp, and you lose. It's raining on our parade."

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### Martinez as sharp with words as pitches



New York Mets' pitcher Pedro Martinez, center, General Manager Omar Minaya, left, and Manager Willie Randolph celebrate at a news conference to introduce Martinez at Shea Stadium on Thursday. Martinez also had some parting shots for the Red Sox. See story on Page 27.



Jones sues BALCO founder Conte for defamation

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Kitna back in charge of Bengals' offense

Orgeron hired as Mississippi footbal coach Page 28

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